

George Kendall
George Kendall
COLLECTION
OF THE

ENGLISH POETS,

CONTAINING THE POETICAL WORKS OF

POPE.	SHENSTON.
DRYDEN.	POMFRET.
SWIFT.	GRAY & LITTLETON.
PRIOR.	THOMSON.
GAY.	YOUNG.

IN TWENTY VOLUMES.

VOLUME XIX.

ABERDEEN:

PRINTED FOR, AND SOLD BY J. BOYLE.

M. DCC. LXXVI.

N



THE
NIGHT-THOUGHTS,

AND OTHER

SELECT POEMS,

BY THE REVEREND

EDWARD YOUNG, L.L.D.

RECTOR OF WELLWYN IN HERTFORDSHIRE,

AND

CHAPLAIN in Ordinary to His Majesty.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

ABERDEEN.

PRINTED FOR, AND SOLD BY J. BOYLE.

M.DCC.LXXVII.

A

by
tha
wil
it
fro
the
ari
rea
po
wi

P R E F A C E.

AS the occasion of this poem was real. not fictitious; so the method pursued in it, was rather imposed, by what spontaneously arose in the author's mind, on that occasion, than meditated, or designed. Which will appear very probable from the nature of it. For it differs from the common mode of poetry, which is from long narrations to draw short morals. Here, on the contrary, the narrative is short, and the morality arising from it makes the bulk of the poem. The reason of it is, that the facts mentioned did naturally pour these moral reflections on the thought of the writer.



NIGHT THE FIRST.

ON

L I F E, D E A T H,

A N D

I M M O R T A L I T Y.

Humbly inscribed

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

ARTHUR ONSLOW, Esq.

SPEAKER of the House of Commons.

VOL. I.

A

C

T

W
S
A

I
Y

I

T

F

A

T

(A

T

E

I

In

He

Sil

No

Cre

THE
COMPLAINT.

NIGHT THE FIRST.

TIR'D nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep!

He, like the world, his ready visit pays
Where fortune smiles; the wretched he forsakes;
Swift on his downy pinions flies from woe,
And lights on lids unfully'd with a tear.

From short (as usual) and disturb'd repose,
I wake: how happy they, who wake no more!
Yet that were vain, if dreams infest the grave.
I wake, emerging from a sea of dreams
Tumultuous; where my wreck'd desponding thought,
From wave to wave of fancy'd misery,
At random drove, her helm of reason lost:
Tho' now restor'd, 'tis only change of pain,
(A bitter change!) severer for severe.
The day too short for my distress: and night,
Even in the zenith of her dark domain,
Is sunshine, to the colour of my fate.

Night, sable goddess! from her ebony throne,
In rayless majesty, now stretches forth
Her leaden sceptre o'er a slumb'ring world.
Silence, how dead! and darkness, how profound!
Nor eye, nor list'ning ear, an object finds;
Creation sleeps. 'Tis as the general pulse

Of life stood still, and nature made a pause;
An awful pause! prophetic of her end.
And let her prophecy be soon fulfill'd:
Fate! drop the curtain; I can lose no more.

Silence, and darkness! solemn sisters! twins
From ancient night, who nurse the tender thought
To reason, and on reason build resolve,
(That column of true majesty in man.)
Assist me: I will thank you in the grave;
The grave, your kingdom: there this frame shall fall
A victim sacred to your dreary shrine.
But what are ye?—THOU, who didst put to flight
Primaeval silence, when the morning-stars
Exulting, shouted o'er the rising ball;
O THOU! whose word from solid darkness struck
That spark, the sun, strike wisdom from my soul;
My soul, which flies to thee, her trust, her treasure,
As misers to their gold, while others rest.

Thro' this opaque of nature, and of soul,
This double night, transmit one pitying ray,
To lighten, and to cheer. O lead my mind,
(A mind that fain would wander from its woe,)
Lead it thro' various scenes of life, and death;
And from each scene, the noblest truths inspire.
Nor less inspire my conduct, than my song;
Teach my best reason, reason; my best will
Teach rectitude; and fix my firm resolve
Wisdom to wed, and pay her long arrear:
Nor let the phial of thy vengeance, pour'd
On this devoted head, be pour'd in vain.

NIGHT THE FIRST.

3

The bell strikes one. We take no note of time,
But from its loss. To give it then a tongue,
Is wise in man. As if an angel spoke,
I feel the solemn sound. If heard aright,
It is the knell of my departed hours:
Where are they? with the years beyond the flood!
It is the signal that demands dispatch:
How much is to be done? my hopes and fears
Start up alarm'd, and o'er life's narrow verge
Look down——on what? a fathomless abyss;
A dread eternity! how surely mine!
And can eternity belong to me,
Poor pensioner on the bounties of an hour?

How poor, how rich, how abject, how august,
How complicate, how wonderful is man?
How passing wonder He, who made him such?
Who center'd in our make such strange extremes?
From different natures marvelously mixt,
Connexion exquisite of distant worlds!
Distinguish'd link in being's endless chain!
Midway from nothing to the Deity!
A beam ethereal, fully'd, and absorb'd!
Tho' fully'd, and dishonour'd, still divine!
Dim miniature of greatness absolute!
An heir of glory! a frail child of dust!
Helpless immortal! insect infinite!
A worm! a god!——I tremble at myself,
And in myself am lost! at home, a stranger,
Thought wanders up and down, surpris'd, aghast,
And wonder'ing at her own: how reason reels?

O what a miracle to man is man,
 Triumphantly distress'd! what joy, what dread!
 Alternately transported, and alarm'd!
 What can preserve my life? or what destroy?
 An angels arm can't snatch me from the grave;
 Legions of angels can't confine me there.

'Tis past conjecture; all things rise in proof:
 While o'er my limbs sleep's soft dominion spread,
 What tho' my soul phantastic measures trod
 O'er fairy fields; or mourn'd along the gloom
 Of pathless woods; or, down the craggy steep
 Hurl'd headlong, swam with pain the mantled pool;
 Or scal'd the cliff; or danc'd on hollow winds,
 With antic shapes, wild natives of the brain?
 Her ceaseless flight, tho' devious, speaks her nature
 Of subtler essence than the trodden clod;
 Active, ærial, tow'ring unconfin'd,
 Unfetter'd with her gross companion's fall.
 Ev'n silent night proclaims my soul immortal:
 Ev'n silent night proclaims eternal day.
 For human weal, heav'n husbands all events:
 Dull sleep instructs, nor sport vain dreams in vain.

Why then their loss deplore, that are not lost?
 Why wanders wretched thought their tombs around,
 In infidel distress? Are angels there?
 Slumbers rak'd up in dust, ethereal fire?
 They live! they greatly live a life on earth
 Unkindled unconceiv'd; and from an eye
 Of tenderness, let heavenly pity fall.
 On me, more justly number'd with the dead.

NIGHT THE FIRST.

7

This is the desert, this the solitude:
How populous, how vital, is the grave?
This is creation's melancholy vault,
The vale funeral, the sad cypress gloom;
The land of apparitions, empty shades!
All, all on earth is shadow, all beyond
Is substance: the reverse is folly's creed:
How solid all, where change shall be no more!

This is the bud of being, the dim dawn,
The twilight of our day, the vestibule;
Life's theatre as yet is shut, and death,
Strong death alone can heave the massy bar,
This gross impediment of clay remove,
And make us, embryos of existence, free.
From real life but little more remote
Is he, not yet a candidate for light,
The future embryo, slumbering in his fire.
Embryos we must be, till we burst the shell,
Yon ambient azure shell, and spring to life,
The life of gods, O transport! and of man.

Yet man, fool man! here buries all his thoughts;
Inters celestial hopes without one sigh.
Prisoner of earth, and pent beneath the moon,
Here pinions all his wishes: wing'd by heaven
To fly at infinite; and reach it there,
Where seraphs gather immortality,
On life's fair tree, fast by the throne of God.
What golden joys ambrosial clust'ring glow
In His full beam, and ripen for the just,
Where momentary ages are no more!

Where time, and pain, and chance, and death, expire !
 And is it in the flight of threescore years,
 To push eternity from human thought,
 And smother souls immortal in the dust ?
 And soul immortal, spending all her fires,
 Wasting her strength in strenuous idleness,
 Thrown into tumult, raptur'd or alarm'd,
 At aught this scene can threaten, or indulge;
 Resembles ocean into tempest wrought,
 To waft a feather, or to drown a fly.

Where falls this censure ? It o'erwhelms myself ;
 How was my heart encrusted by the world ?
 O how self-fetter'd was my groveling soul ?
 How, like a worm, was I wrapt round and round :
 In silken thought, which reptile fancy spun,
 Till darken'd reason lay quite clouded o'er
 With soft conceit of endless comfort here,
 Nor yet put forth her wings to reach the skies ?

Night-visions may befriend, (as sung above,)
 Our waking dreams are fatal : how I dreamt
 Of things impossible ! (could sleep do more ?)
 Of joys perpetual in perpetual change !
 Of stable pleasures on the tossing wave !
 Eternal sunshine in the storms of life !
 How richly were my noon-tide trances hung :
 With gorgeous tapestries of pictured joys ?
 Joy behind joy, in endless perspective !
 Till at death's toll, whose restless iron tongue
 Calls daily for his millions at a meal,
 Starting I woke, and found myself undone.

NIGHT THE FIRST.

Where now my frenzy's pompous furniture?
The cobweb'd cotttage, with its ragged wall
Of mouldering mud, is royalty to me!
The spider's most attenuated thread
Is cord, is cable, to man's tender tie
On earthly bliss; it breaks at every breeze.

O ye blest scenes of permanent delight!
Full, above measure! lasting, beyond bound!
A perpetuity of bliss, is bliss.

Could you, so rich in rapture, fear an end,
That ghastly thought would drink up all your joy,
And quite unparadise the realms of light.
Safe are you lodg'd above these rolling spheres;
The baleful influence of whose giddy dance
Sheds sad vicissitude on all beneath.

Here teems with revolutions every hour;
And rarely for the better; or the best,
More mortal than the common births of fate.
Each moment has its sickle, emulous
Of Time's enormous scythe, whose ample sweep
Strikes empires from the root; each moment plays
His little weapon in the narrower sphere
Of sweet domestic comfort, and cuts down
The fairest bloom of sublunary bliss.

Bliss! sublunary bliss!—proud words, and vain!
Implicit treason to divine decree!
A bold invasion of the rights of heaven!
I clasp'd the phantoms, and I found them air.
O had I weigh'd it ere my fond embrace!
What darts of agony had miss'd my heart?

Death! great proprietor of all! 'tis thine
 To tread out empire, and to quench the stars.
 The sun himself by thy permission shines;
 And, one day, thou shalt pluck him from his sphere.
 Amid such mighty plunder, why exhaust
 Thy partial quiver on a mark so mean?
 Why thy peculiar rancour wreck'd on me?
 Insatiate archer! could not one suffice?
 Thy shaft flew thrice; and thrice my peace was slain;
 And thrice, ere thrice yon moon had fill'd her horn.
 O Cynthia! why so pale? Dost thou lament
 Thy wretched neighbour? grieve to see thy wheel
 Of ceaseless change outwhirl'd in human life?
 How wanes my borrow'd bliss? From fortune's smile,
 Precarious courtesy! not virtue's store,
 Self-given, solar, ray of sound delight.

In every vary'd posture, place and hour,
 How widow'd every thought of every joy?
 Thought, busy thought! too busy for my peace!
 Thro' the dark postern of time long elaps'd,
 Led softly, by the stillness of the night,
 Led, like a murderer, (and such it proves!)
 Strays (wretched rover!) o'er the pleasing past;
 In quest of wretchedness perversely strays;
 And finds all desert now; and meets the ghosts
 Of my departed joys, a numerous train!
 I rue the riches of my former fate;
 Sweet comfort's blasted clusters I lament;
 I tremble at the blessings once so dear;
 And every pleasure pains me to the heart.

Yet why complain ? or why complain for one ?
Hangs out the sun his lustre but for me,
The single man ? are angels all beside ?
I mourn for millions : 'tis the common lot ;
In this shape, or in that, has fate entail'd
The mother's throws on all of woman born,
Not more the children, then sure heirs of pain.

War, famine, pest, volcano, storm, and fire,
Intestine broils, oppression, with her heart
Wrapt up in triple brass, besiege mankind.
God's image, disinherited of day,
Here, plung'd in mines, forgets a sun was made.
There, beings deathless as their haughty lord,
Are hammer'd to the galling oar for life ;
And plow the winter's wave, and reap despair.
Some, for hard masters, broken under arms,
In battle lopt away, with half their limbs,
Beg bitter bread thro' realms their valour sav'd,
If so the tyrant, or his minion, doom.
Want, and incurable disease, (fell pair !)
On hopeless multitudes remorseless seize
At once ; and make a refuge of the grave :
How groaning hospitals eject their dead !
What numbers groan for sad admission there !
What numbers, once in fortune's lap high-se'd,
Solicit the cold hand of charity ?
To shock us more, solicit it in vain ?
Ye silken sons of pleasure ! since in pains
You rue more modish visits, visit here,
And breathe from your debauch ; give, and reduce

Surfeit's dominion o'er you : but so great
Your impudence, you blush at what is right.

Happy ! did sorrow seize on such alone.
Not prudence can defend, or virtue save ;
Disease invades the chastest temperance ;
And punishment the guiltless ; and alarm
Thro' thickest shades pursues the fond of peace,
Man's caution often into danger turns,
And his guard falling, crushes him to death.
Not happiness itself makes good her name ;
Our very wishes give us not our wish.
How distant oft the thing we doat on most,
From that for which we doat, felicity ?
The smoothest course of nature has its pains ;
And truest friends, thro' error wound our rest.
Without misfortune, what calamities ?
And what hostilities, without a foe ?
Nor are foes wanting to the best on earth :
But endless is the list of human ills,
And sighs might sooner fail, than cause to sigh.

A part how small of the terraqueous globe
Is tenanted by man ? the rest a waste,
Rocks, desarts, frozen seas, and burning sands !
Wild haunts of monsters, poisons, filth, and death,
Such is earth's melancholy map ! But far
More sad ! this earth is a true map of man :
So bounded are its haughty lord's delights
To woe's wide empire ; where deep troubles toss,
Loud sorrows howl, envenom'd passions bite,
Ravenous calamities our vitals seize,

And threatening fate wide opens to devour.

What then am I, who sorrow for myself?
In age, in infancy, from other's aid
Is all our hope; to teach us to be kind.
That's, nature's first, last lesson to mankind;
The selfish heart deserves the pain it feels.
More generous sorrow, while it sinks, exalts,
And conscious virtue mitigates the pang.
Nor virtue, more than prudence, bids me give
Swoln thought a second channel; who divide,
They weaken too, the torrent of their grief.
Take then, O world! thy much indebted tear:
How sad a sight is human happiness
To those whose thought can pierce beyond an hour!
O thou! whate'er thou art, whose heart exults!
Would'st thou I should congratulate thy fate?
I know thou wouldst; thy pride demands it from me.
Let thy pride pardon, what thy nature needs,
The salutary censure of a friend.
Thou happy wretch! by blindness thou art blest;
By dotage dandled to perpetual smiles.
Know, smiler! at thy peril art thou pleas'd;
Thy pleasure is the promise of thy pain.
Misfortune, like a creditor severe,
But rises in demand for her delay;
She makes a scourge of past prosperity,
To sting thee more, and double thy distress.

Lorenzo, fortune makes her court to thee.
Thy fond heart dances, while the Syren sings.
Dear is thy welfare; think me not unkind;

I would not damp, but to secure thy joys.
 Think not that fear is sacred to the storm.
 Stand on thy guard against the smiles of fate.
 Is heaven tremendous in its frowns? most sure;
 And in its favours formidable too:
 Its favours here are trials, not rewards;
 A call to duty, not discharge from care;
 And should alarm us, full as much as woes;
 Awake us to their cause, and consequence:
 And make us tremble, weigh'd with our desert;
 Awe nature's tumult, and chastise her joys,
 Lest while we clasp, we kill them; nay, invert
 To worse than simple misery, their charms.
 Revolted joys, like foes in civil war,
 Like bosom friendships to resentment sour'd,
 With rage envenom'd rise against our peace.
 Beware what earth calls happiness; beware
 All joys, but joys that never can expire.
 Who builds on less than an immortal base,
 Fond as he seems, condemns his joys to death.

Mine dy'd with thee, Philander! thy last sigh
 Dissolv'd the charm! the disenchanted earth
 Lost all her lustre. Where, her glittering towers?
 Her golden mountains, where? all darken'd down
 To naked waste; a dreary vale of tears:
 The great magician's dead! Thou poor, pale piece
 Of out-cast earth, in darkness! what a change
 From yesterday! Thy darling hope so near,
 (Long-labour'd prize!) O how ambition flush'd
 Thy glowing cheek! ambition, truly great,

Of virtuous praise. Death's subtle seed within,
(Sly, treacherous miner!) working in the dark,
Smil'd at thy well-concerted scheme, and beckon'd
The worm to riot on that rose so red,
Unfaded ere it fell; one moment's prey!

Man's foresight is conditionally wise;
Lorenzo! wisdom into folly turns
Oft, the first instant, its idea fair
To labouring thought is born. How dim our eye?
The present moment terminates our sight;
Clouds, thick as those on doomsday, drown the next;
We penetrate, we prophesy in vain.
Time is dealt out by particles; and each,
Ere mingled with the streaming sands of life,
By fate's inviolable oath is sworn
Deep silence, "Where eternity begins."

By nature's law, what may be, may be now;
There's no prerogative in human hours.
In human hearts what bolder thought can rise,
Than man's presumption on to-morrow's dawn?
Where is to-morrow? in another world.
For numbers this is certain; the reverse
Is sure to none: and yet on this *perhaps*,
This *peradventure*, infamous for lies,
As on a rock of adamant we build
Our mountain-hopes; spin our eternal schemes,
As we the fatal sisters would out-spin,
And, big with life's futurities, expire.

Not even Philander had bespoke his shroud;
Nor had he cause; a warning was deny'd;

How many fall as sudden, not as safe ?
 As sudden, though for years admonish'd home.
 Of human ills, the last extreme beware,
 Beware, Lorenzo! a slow-sudden death.
 How dreadful that deliberate surprize ?
 Be wise to-day, 'tis madness to defer;
 Next day the fatal precedent will plead;
 Thus on, till wisdom is push'd out of life.
 Procrastination is the thief of time;
 Year after year it steals, till all are fled;
 And to the mercies of a moment leaves
 The vast concerns of an eternal scene.
 If not so frequent, would not this be strange ?
 That 'tis so frequent, this is stranger still.

Of man's miraculous mistakes, this bears
 The palm, " That all men are about to live."
 For ever on the brink of being born.
 All pay themselves the compliment to think
 They, one day, shall not drivel; and their pride
 On this reversion takes up ready praise;
 At least, their own; their future selves applauds;
 How excellent that life they ne'er will lead ?
 Time lodg'd in their own hands is folly's vails;
 That lodg'd in fate's, to wisdom they consign;
 The thing they can't but purpose they postpone:
 'Tis not in folly, not to scorn a fool;
 And scarce in human wisdom to do more.
 All promise is poor dilatory man,
 And that through every stage: when young, indeed,
 In full content, we sometimes nobly rest,

Unanxious for ourselves; and only wish,
As dutious sons, our fathers were more wise.
At thirty man suspects himself a fool;
Knows it at forty, and reforms his plan;
At fifty chides his infamous delay,
Pushes his prudent purpose to resolve;
In all the magnanimity of thought
Resolves; and re-resolves: then dies the same.

And why? because he thinks himself immortal.
All men think all men mortal, but themselves;
Themselves, when some alarming shock of fate
Strikes through their wounded hearts the sudden dread;
But their hearts wounded, like the wounded air,
Soon close; where past the shaft, no trace is found:
As from the wing no scar the sky retains:
The parted wave no furrow from the keel;
So dies in human hearts the thought of death;
Even with the tender tear which nature sheds
O'er those we love, we drop it in their grave.
Can I forget Philander? That were strange;
O my full heart!——But should I give it vent,
The longest night, though longer far, would fail,
And the lark listen to my midnight song.

The sprightly lark's shrill morn'g wakes the morn;
Grief's sharpest thorn hard pressing on my breast,
I strive, with wakeful melody, to cheer
The sullen gloom, sweet Philomel! like thee,
And call the stars to listen: every star
Is deaf to mine, enamour'd of thy lay.
Yet be not vain; there are, who thine excel,

And charm thro' distant ages : wrapt in shade,
Prisoner of darkness ! to the silent hours,
How often I repeat their rage divine,
To lull my griefs, and steal my heart from woe ?
I roll their, raptures, but not catch their fire.
Dark, though not blind, like thee, Maconides !
Or, Milton ! thee, ah cou'd I reach your strain !
Or his, who made Maconides our own.
Man too he sung : immortal man I sing :
Oft bursts my song beyond the bounds of life ;
What now, but immortality can please ?
O had he press'd his theme, pursu'd the track,
Which opens out of darkness into day !
O had he mounted on his wing of fire,
Soar'd where I sink, and sung immortal man !
How had it blest mankind, and rescu'd me ?

NIGHT THE SECOND.

ON

TIME, DEATH,

AND

FRIENDSHIP.

Humbly inscribed

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE EARL OF WILMINGTON.

C

V

W

Th

En

Ro

Sh

A

I

H

E

D

L

A

V

C

R

I

.

.

T H E
C O M P L A I N T.

NIGHT THE SECOND.

• **W**HEN the cock crew, he wept,—smote by that
eye;

Which looks on me, on all : that pow'r, who bids
This midnight centinel with clarion shrill,
Emblem of that which shall awake the dead,
Rouse souls from slumber, into thoughts of heaven.
Shall I too weep ? where then is fortitude ?
And fortitude abandon'd, where is man ?
I know the terms on which he sees the light :
He that is born, is list'd : life is war,
Eternal war with woe : who bears it best,
Deserves it least.—On other themes I'll dwell.
Lorenzo ! let me turn my thoughts on thee,
And thine, on themes, may profit ; profit there
Where most they need : themes too, the genuine growth
Of dear Philander's dust. He, thus, tho' dead
May still befriend—What themes ? Time's wond'rous
Death, friendship, and Philander's final scene. [price,
So could I touch these themes, as might obtain
Thine ear, nor leave thine heart quite disengag'd,
The good deed would delight me ; half-impress
On my dark cloud an Iris ; and from grief
Call glory.—Dost thou mourn Philander's fate ?

I know thou say'st it : says thy life the same.
 He mourns the dead, who lives as they desire.
 Where is that thrift, that avarice of time,
 (O glorious avarice !) thought of death inspires,
 As rumour'd robberies endear our gold ?
 O time ! than gold more sacred, more a load
 Than lead, to fools, and fools reputed wise.
 What moment granted man without account ?
 What years are squander'd, wisdom's debt unpaid ?
 Our wealth in days all due to that discharge.
 Haste, haste ! he lies in wait, he's at the door,
 Insidious death ! should his strong hand arrest,
 No composition sets the prisoner free :
 Eternity's inexorable chain -

Fast binds ; and vengeance claims the full arrears.

How late I shudder'd on the brink ? how late
 Life call'd for her last refuge in despair ?

That time is mine. O Mead ! to thee I owe ;

Fain would I pay thee with eternity :

But ill my genius answers my desire ;

My sickly song is mortal, past thy cure.

Accept the will ; — that dies not with my strain.

For what calls thy disease Lorenzo ? Not

For Esculapian, but for moral aid.

Thou think'st it folly to be wise too soon.

Youth is not rich in time ; it may be poor :

Part with it as with money, sparing ; pay

No moment, but in purchase of its worth ;

And what its worth, ask death beds, they can tell.

Part with it as with life, reluctant ; big

With holy hope of nobler time to come ;
Time higher-aim'd, still nearer the great mark
Of men and angels ; virtue more divine.

Is this our duty, wisdom, glory, gain ?
(These heaven benign in vital union binds)
And sport we like the natives of the bough,
When vernal suns inspire ? Amusement reigns
Man's great demand : to trifle is to live ;
And is it then a trifle, too, to die ?
Thou say'st I preach ; Lorenzo ! 'tis confess.
What if, for once, I preach thee quite awake ?
Who wants amusement in the flame of battle ?
Is it not treason to the soul immortal,
Her foes in arms, eternity the prize ?
Will toys amuse when med'cines cannot cure ?
When spirits ebb, when life's enchanting scenes
Their lustre lose, and lessen in our sight,
As lands, and cities with their glittering spires,
To the poor shatter'd bark, by sudden storm
Thrown off to sea, and soon to perish there ;
Will toys amuse ?—No : thrones will then be toys,
And earth and skies seem dust upon the scale.

Redeem we time ?—its loss we dearly buy.
What pleads Lorenzo for his high-priz'd sports ?
He pleads time's numerous blanks ; he loudly pleads
The straw-like trifles, on life's common stream.
From whom those blanks and trifles, but from thee ?
No blank, no trifle, nature made, or meant.
Virtue, or purpos'd virtue still be thine :
This cancels thy complaint at once ; this leaves

In act no trifle, and no blank in time:
 This greatens, fills, immortalizes all;
 This, the blest art of turning all to gold;
 This, the good heart's prerogative to raise
 A royal tribute from the poorest hours:
 Immense revenge! every moment pays.
 If nothing more than purpose in thy power;
 Thy purpose firm, is equal to the deed:
 Who does the best his circumstance allows,
 Does well, acts nobly; angels could no more.
 Our outward act, indeed, admits restraint:
 'Tis not in things o'er thought to domineer:
 Guard well thy thought; our thoughts are heard in
 heaven.

On all important time, through every age,
 Tho' much, and warm, the wise have urg'd; the man
 Is yet unborn, who duly weighs an hour.
 "I've lost a day,"—the prince who nobly cry'd,
 Had been an emperor without his crown;
 Of Rome! say, rather, lord of human race:
 He spoke, as if deputed by mankind.
 So should all speak; so reason speaks in all;
 From the soft whispers of that God in man,
 Why fly to folly, why to frenzy fly,
 For rescue from the blessings we possess?
 Time, the supreme!—time is eternity;
 Pregnant with all eternity can give;
 Pregnant with all that makes Archangels smile:
 Who murders time, he crushes in the birth
 A power ætherial, only not ador'd.

Ah ! how unjust to nature, and himself,
Is thoughtless, thankless, inconsistent man ?
Like children babbling nonsense in their sports,
We censure nature for a span too short ;
That span too short, we tax as tedious too,
Torture invention, all expedients tire,
To lash the ling'ring moments into speed,
And whirl us (happy riddance !) from ourselves.
Art, brainless art ! our furious charioteer,
(For nature's voice unstilled would recall)
Drives headlong tow'ards the precipice of death ;
Death, most our dread ! death thus more dreadful made.
O what a riddle of absurdity !

Leisure is pain ; takes off our chariot-wheels :
How heavily we drag the load of life !
Blest leisure is our curse ; like that of Cain,
It makes us wander ; wander earth around
To fly that tyrant, thought. As Atlas groan'd
The world beneath, we groan beneath an hour.
We cry for mercy to the next amusement ;
The next amusement mortgages our fields ;
Slight inconvenience ! prisons hardly frown,
From hateful time if prisons set us free.
Yet when death kindly tenders us relief,
We call him cruel ; years to moments shrink,
Ages to years. The telescope is turn'd :
To man's false optics (from his folly false)
Time, in advance, behind him hides his wings,
And seems to creep, decrepit with his age :
Behold him, when past by ; what then is seen,

But his broad pinions swifter than the winds?
And all mankind, in contradiction strong,
Rueful, aghast! cry out on his career.

Leave to thy foes these errors, and these ills;
To nature just, their cause and cure explore.
Not short heaven's bounty, boundless our expence;
No niggard, nature; men are prodigals.
We waste, not use our time: we breathe, not live.
Time wasted is existence, us'd is life:
And bare existence, man, to live ordain'd,
Wrings, and oppresses with enormous weight.
And why? since time was given for use, not waste,
Enjoin'd to fly; with tempest, tide, and stars,
To keep his speed, nor ever wait for man;
Time's use was doom'd a pleasure; waste, a pain;
That man might feel his error, if unseen;
And, feeling, fly to labour for his cure;
Not, blundering, split on idleness, for ease.
Life's cares are comforts; such by heaven design'd;
He that has none, must make them, or be wretched.
Cares are employments; and without employ
The soul is on a rack; the rack of rest;
To souls most adverse; action all their joy.

Here, then, the riddle, mark'd above, unfolds;
Then time turns torment, when man turns a fool.
We rave, we wrestle with great nature's plan;
We thwart the Deity! and 'tis decreed,
Who thwart his will, shall contradict their own.
Hence our unnatural quarrel with ourselves;
Our thoughts at enmity, our bosom-broil.

We push time from us, and we wish him back,
Lavish of lustrums, and yet fond of life;
Life we think long, and short; death seek, and shun;
Body and soul like peevish man and wife,
United jar, and yet are loth to part.

Oh the dark days of vanity! while here,
How tasteless? and how terrible, when gone?
Gone? they ne'er go; when past, they haunt us still;
The spirit walks of every day deceas'd,
And smiles an angel, or a fury frowns.
Nor death, nor life, delights us. If time past,
And time posses't, both pain us, what can please?
That which the deity to please ordain'd,
Time us'd. The man who consecrates his hours
By vigorous effort, and an honest aim,
At once he draws the sting of life and death:
He walks with nature; and her paths are peace.

Our error's cause and cure are seen: see next
Time's nature, origin, importance, speed;
And thy great gain from urging his career.——
All-sensual man, because untouch'd, unseen,
He looks on time as nothing. Nothing else
Is truly man's; 'tis fortune's—Time's a god.
Hast thou ne'er heard of Time's omnipotence?
For, or against, what wonders can he do!
And will: to stand blank neuter he disdains.
Not on those terms was Time, (heaven's stranger!) sent
On his important embassy to man.
Lorenzo! no: on the long destin'd hour,
From everlasting ages growing ripe,

That memorable hour of wond'rous birth,
 When the DREAD SIRE on emanation bent,
 And big with nature, rising in his might,
 Call'd forth creation (for then Time was born)
 By Godhead streaming through a thousand worlds:
 Not on those terms, from the great days of heaven,
 From old Eternity's mysterious orb,
 Was time cut off, and cast beneath the skies;
 The skies, which watch him in his new abode,
 Measuring his motions by revolving spheres;
 That horologe machinery divine.
 Hours, days, and months, and years, his children, play
 Like numerous wings around him as he flies:
 Or, rather, as unequal plumes, they shape
 His ample pinions, swift as darted flame,
 To gain his goal, to reach his ancient rest,
 And join anew Eternity, his sire;
 In his immutability to nest,
 When worlds, that count his circles now, unning'd,
 (Fate the loud signal sounding) headlong rush
 To timeless night, and chaos, whence they rose.

Why spur the speedy? why with levities
 New-wing thy short, short day's too rapid flight?
 Know'st thou, or what thou dost, or what is done?
 Man flies from time, and time from man: too soon
 In sad divorce, this double flight must end:
 And then, where are we? where, Lorenzo! then,
 Thy sports? thy pomps?——I grant thee, in a state
 Not unambitious; in the ruffled shroud,
 Thy Parian tomb's triumphant arch beneath.

Has death his fopperies ? then well may life
Put on her plume, and in her rainbow shine.

Ye well-array'd ! ye lilies of our land !

Ye lilies male ! who neither toil, nor spin,

(As sister lilies might) if not so wise

As Solomon, more sumptuous to the sight !

Ye delicate ! who nothing can support,

Yourselves most insupportable ! for whom

The winter rose must blow, the sun put on

A brighter beam in Leo ; silky-soft

Pavonius, breathe still softer, or be chid ;

And other worlds send odours, sance, and song,

And robes, and notions, fram'd in foreign looms !

O ye Lorenzos of our age ! who deem

One moment unamus'd, a misery

Not made for feeble man ! who call aloud !

For every bawble, drivell'd o'er by sense ;

For rattles, and conceits of every cast,

For change of follies, and relays of joy,

To drag your patient, through the tedious length

Of a short winter's day ;——say, fages ! say,

Wit's oracles ! say, dreamers of gay dreams !

How will you weather an eternal night,

Where such expedients fail ?

O treach'rous conscience ! while she seems to sleep,

On rose and myrtle, lull'd with syren song ;

While she seems, nodding o'er her charge, to drop,

On headlong appetite the slacken'd rein,

And gives us up to licence, unrecall'd,

Unmark'd ;—see, from behind her secret stand,

The sly informer minutes every fault,
 And her dread diary with horror fills;
 Not the gross act alone employs her pen;
 She reconnoitres fancy's airy band,
 A watchful foe! The formidable spy,
 List'ning o'erhears the whispers of our camp;
 Our dawning purposes of heart explores,
 And steals our embryos of iniquity.
 As all-rapacious usurers conceal
 Their doomday-book, from all-consuming heirs
 Thus, with indulgence most severe, she treats
 Us spendthrifts of inestimable time;
 Unnoted, notes each moment misapply'd;
 In leaves more durable than leaves of brass,
 Writes our whole history; which death shall read
 In every pale delinquent's private ear;
 And judgment publish; publish to more worlds
 Than this; and endless age in groans resound.
 Lorenzo, such that sleeper in thy breast!
 Such is her slumber; and her vengeance such,
 For slighted counsel; such thy future peace!
 And think'st thou still thou can'st be wise too soon?

But why on time so lavish is my song?
 On this great theme kind nature keeps a school,
 To teach her sons herself. Each night we die,
 Each morn are born anew; each day, a life!
 And shall we kill each day? if trifling kills;
 Sure vice must butcher. O what heaps of slain
 Cry out for vengeance on us! time destroy'd
 Is suicide, where more than blood is spilt.

Times flies, death urges, knells call, heaven invites,
Hell threatens; all exerts; in effort all;
More than creation labours!—Labours more?
And is there in creation, what, amidst
This tumult universal, wing'd dispatch,
And ardent energy, supinely yawns? —
Man sleeps; and man alone, and man, whose fate,
Fate irreversible, entire, extreme,
Endless, hair-hung, breeze-shaken, o'er the gulph
A moment trembles; drops! and man, for whom
All else is in alarm; man, the sole cause
Of this surrounding storm! and yet he sleeps,
As the storm rock'd to rest. — Throw years away?
Throw empires, and be blameless. Moments seize;
Heaven's on their wing: a moment we may wish,
When worlds want wealth to buy. Bid day stand still
Bid him drive back his car, and reimport
The period past, regive the given hour.
Lorenzo, more than miracles we want;
Lorenzo——O for yesterdays to come!

Such is the language of the man awake;
His ardor such, for what oppresses thee.
And is his ardor vain, Lorenzo? No;
That more than miracle the gods indulge;
To day is yesterday return'd; return'd
Full power'd to cancel, expiate, raise, adorn,
And reinstate us on the rock of peace.
Let it not share its predecessor's fate;
Nor, like its elder sisters, die a fool.
Shall it evaporate in fume? Fly off

Fuliginous, and stain us deeper still ?
 Shall we be poorer for the plenty pour'd ?
 More wretched for the clemencies of heav'n ?

Where shall I find him ? Angels ! tell me where ?
 You know him ; he is near you : point him out :
 Shall I see glories beaming from his brow ?
 Or trace his footsteps by the rising flow'rs ?
 Your golden wings, now hov'ring o'er him, shed
 Protection ; now, are waving in applause
 To that blest son of foresight ! lord of fate !
 That awful independent on to-morrow !
 Whose work is done ; who triumphs in the past ;
 Whose yesterdays look backward with a smile ;
 Not, like the Parthian, wound him as they fly ;
 That common, but opprobrious lot ! past hours,
 If not by guilt, yet wound us by their flight,
 If folly bounds our prospect by the grave,
 All feeling of futurity benumb'd ;
 All godlike passion for eternal quench'd ;
 All relish of realities expir'd ;
 Renounc'd all correspondence with the skies ;
 Our freedom chain'd ; quite wingless our desire.
 In sense dark-prison'd all that ought to soar
 Prone to the centre, crawling in the dust,
 Dismounted every great and glorious aim ;
 Embruted every faculty divine ;
 Hearth-buried in the rubbish of the world,
 The world, that gulph of souls, immortal souls,
 Souls elevate, angelic, wing'd with fire
 To reach the distant skies, and triumph there

NIGHT THE SECOND. 33

On thrones, which shall not mourn their masters chang'd;
Though we from earth; etherial, they that fell.
Such veneration due, O man, to man.

Who venerate themselves, the world despise.
For what, gay friend! is this escutcheon'd world,
Which hangs out DEATH in one eternal night?
A night, that glooms us in the noon tide ray,
And wraps our thought at banquets in the shroud.
Life's little stage is a small eminence,
Inch-high the grave above; that home of man,
Where dwells the multitude: we gaze around,
We read the monuments; we sigh; and while
We sigh, we sink; and are what we deplor'd;
Lamenting, or lamented, all our lot!

Is death at distance? No: he has been on thee;
And given sure earnest of his final blow.
Those hours, which lately smil'd, where are they now?
Pallid to thought, and ghastly! drown'd, all drown'd
In that great deep, which nothing disembogues;
And, dying, they bequeath'd thee small renown.
The rest are on the wing; how fleet their flight?
Already has the fatal train took fire:
A moment, and the world's blown up to thee;
The sun is darkness, and the stars are dust.

'Tis greatly wise to talk with our past hours;
And ask them, what report they bore to heaven;
And how they might have born more welcome news.
Their answers form what men experience call;
If wisdom's friend, her best; if not, worst foe.
O reconcile them! kind experience cries,

‘ There’s nothing here, but what as nothing weighs;
 ‘ The more our joy, the more we know it vain;
 ‘ And by success are tutor’d to despair.’

Nor is it only thus, but must be so.

Who knows not this, though grey, is still a child.

Loose then from earth the grasp of fond desire,

Weigh anchor, and some happier clime explore.

Art thou so moor’d thou canst not disengage,
 Nor give thy thoughts a ply to future scenes?

Since, by life’s passing breath, blown up from earth,
 Light, as the summer’s dust, we take in air.

A moments giddy flight; and fall again;

Join the dull mass, increase the trodden soil,

And sleep till earth herself shall be no more;

Since then (as emmets, their small world o’erthrown)

We, fore amaz’d, from out earth’s ruins crawl,

And rise to fate extreme of foul or fair,

As man’s own choice, (controuler of the skies!

As man’s despotic will, perhaps one hour,

(O how omnipotent is time!) decrees;

Should not each warning give a strong alarm?

Warning, far less than that of bosom torn

From bosom, bleeding o’er the sacred dead!

Should not each dial strike us as we pass,

Portentous, as the written wall, which struck,

O’er midnight bowls, the proud Assyrian pale;

Ere-while high flush’d with insolence and wine?

Like that, the dial speaks; and points to thee,

Lorenzo! loth to break thy banquet up.

‘ O man, thy kingdom is departing from thee;

NIGHT THE SECOND.

85

And, while it lasts, is emptier than my shade.
 Its silent language such : nor need'st thou call
 Thy Magi, to decypher what it means.
 Know, like the Median, fate is in thy walls :
 Dost ask, How ? whence ? Belshazzar-like, amaz'd ?
 Man's make incloses the sure seeds of death ;
 Life feeds the murderer : ingrate ! he thrives
 On her own meal, and then his nurse devours.

But, here, Lorenzo, the delusion lies :
 That solar shadow, as it measures life,
 It life resembles too : life speeds away
 From point to point, though seeming to stand still.
 The cunning fugitive is swift by stealth :
 Too subtle is the movement to be seen :
 Yet soon man's hour is up, and we are gone.
 Warnings point out our danger ; gnomons, time :
 As these are useless when the sun is set ;
 So those, but when more glorious reason shines.
 Reason should judge in all ; in reason's eye,
 That sedentary shadow travels hard.
 But such our gravitation to the wrong,
 So prone our hearts to whisper what we wish,
 'Tis later with the wise, than he's aware ;
 A Wilmington goes slower than the sun ;
 And all mankind mistake their time of day ;
 Ev'n age itself Fresh hopes are hourly sown
 In furrow'd brows. So gentle life's descent,
 We shut our eyes, and think it is a plain.
 We take fair days in winter for the spring ;
 And turn our blessings into bane. Since oft

Man must compute that age he cannot feel,
 He scarce believes he's older for his years.
 Thus, at life's latest eve, we keep in store
 One disappointment sure, to crown the rest;
 The disappointment of a promis'd hour.

On this, or similar, Philander! thou
 Whose mind was moral, as the preacher's tongue;
 And strong, to wield all science, worth the name;
 How often we talk'd down the summer's sun.
 And cool'd our passions by the breezy stream!
 How often thaw'd, and shorten'd winter's eve,
 By conflict kind, that struck out latent truth,
 Best found, so sought; to the recluse more coy!
 Thoughts disintangle, passing o'er the lip;
 Clean runs the thread; if not, 'tis thrown away,
 Or kept to tie up nonsense for a song;
 Song, fashionably fruitless! such as stains
 The fancy, and unhallow'd passion fires;
 Chiming her saints to Cytherea's fane.

Know'st thou, Lorenzo! what a friend contains?
 As bees mixt nectar draw from fragrant flow'rs,
 So men from FRIENDSHIP, wisdom and delight:
 Twins ty'd by nature, if they part, they die.
 Hast thou no friend to set thy mind abroad?
 Good sense will stagnate. Thoughts shut up, want air,
 And spoil, like bales unopen'd to the sun.
 Had thought been all, sweet speech had been deny'd;
 Speech, thought's canal! speech, thought's criterion too!
 Thought in the mine, may come forth gold or dross;
 When coin'd in word, we know its real worth.

If sterling, store it for thy future use ;
'Twill buy the benefit ; perhaps, renown.
Thought, too, deliver'd, is the more possess ;
Teaching, we learn ; and, giving, we retain
The births of intellect ; when dumb, forgot.
Speech ventilates our intellectual fire ;
Speech burnishes our mental magazine ;
Brightens, for ornament ; and whets, for use.
What numbers, sheath'd in erudition, ly
Plung'd to the hilts in venerable tomes,
And rusted in ; who might have born an edge,
And play'd a sprightly beam, if born to speech ;
If born blest heirs of half their mother's tongue ?
'Tis thought's exchange, which like th' alternate puff,
Of waves conflicting, breaks the learned scum,
And defecates the student's standing pool.

In contemplation is his proud resource ?
'Tis poor, as proud, by converse unsustain'd.
Rude thought runs wild in contemplation's field ;
Converse, the menage, breaks it to the bit
Of due restraint ; and emulation's spur
Gives graceful energy, by rivals aw'd.
'Tis converse qualifies for solitude ;
As exercise for salutary rest.

By that untutor'd, contemplation raves ;
And nature's fool, by wisdom's is outdone.

Wisdom, tho' richer than Peruvian mines,
And sweeter than the sweet ambrosial hive,
What is she, but the means of happiness ?
That unobtain'd, than folly more a fool ;

A melancholy fool, without her bells.
 Friendship, the means of wisdom richly gives
 The precious end, which makes our wisdom wise.
 Nature, in zeal for human amity,
 Denies, or damps an undivided joy.
 Joy is an import ; joy is an exchange ;
 Joy flies monopolists : it calls for two ;
 Rich fruit ! heav'n-planted ! never pluckt by one,
 Needful auxiliars are our friends, to give
 To social man true relish of himself.
 Full on ourselves descending in a line
 Pleasure's bright beam, is feeble in delight :
 Delight intense, is taken by rebound ;
 Reverberated pleasures fire the breast.

Celestial happiness, whene'er she stoops
 To visit earth, one shrine the goddess finds,
 And one alone, to make her sweet amends
 For absent heav'n——the bosom of a friend ;
 Where heart meets heart, reciprocally soft,
 Each others pillow to repose divine.
 Beware the counterfeit : in passion's flame
 Hearts melt ; but melt like ice, soon harder froze.
 True love strikes root in reason ; passion's foe :
 Virtue alone entenders us for life :
 I wrong her much——entenders us for ever.
 Of friendship's fairest fruits, the fruit most fair
 Is virtue kindling at a rival fire,
 And emulously, rapid in her race.
 O the soft enmity ! endearing strife !
 This carries friendship to her noon-tide point,

And gives the rivet of eternity.

From friendship, which outlives my former themes,
Glorious survivor of old time, and death!

From friendship, thus, that flow'r of heavenly seed,
The wise extract earth's most Hyblean bliss,
Superior wisdom, crown'd with smiling joy.

But for whom blossoms this Elysian flower!
Abroad they find, who cherish it, at home.

Lorenzo! pardon what my love extorts,
An honest love, and not afraid to frown.
Tho' choice of follies fasten on the great,
None clings more obstinate, than fancy fond,
That sacred friendship is their easy prey;
Caught by the wafture of a golden lure
Or fascination of a high-born smile.

Their smiles, the great, and the coquet, throw out
For other hearts, tenacious of their own;

And we no less of ours, when such the bait.

Ye fortune's cofferers! ye powers of wealth!

You do your rent-rolls most felonious wrong,

By taking our attachment to yourselves.

Can gold-gain friendship? impudence of hope!

As well mere man an angel might beget.

Love, and love only, is the loan for love.

Lorenzo! pride repress; nor hope to find

A friend, but what has found a friend in thee.

All like the purchase; few the price will pay;

And this makes friends such miracles below.

What if (since daring on so nice a theme)

I shew thee friendship delicate, as dear,

Of tender violations apt to die ?
 Reserve will wound it ; and distrust, destroy.
 Deliberate on all things with thy friend ;
 But since friends grow not thick on ev'ry bough,
 Nor every friend unrotten at the core ;
 First, on thy friend, deliberate with thyself ;
 Pause, ponder, sift ; not eager in the choice,
 Nor jealous of the chosen ; fixing, fix ;
 Judge before friendship, then confide till death.
 Well, for thy friend ; but nobler far for thee ;
 How gallant danger for earth's highest prize !
 A friend is worth all hazard we can run.

- Poor is the friendless master of a world :
- A world in purchase for a friend is gain.*

So sung he (angels hear that angel sing !
 Angels from friendship gather half their joy)
 So sung Philander, as his friend went round
 In the rich ichor, in the generous blood
 Of Bacchus, purple god of joyous wit,
 A brow solute, and ever-laughing eye.
 He drank long health, and virtue to his friend ;
 His friend, who warm'd him more, who more inspir'd
 Friendship's the wine of life ; but friendship new
 (Not such was his) is neither strong, nor pure.
 O ! for the bright complexion, cordial warmth,
 And elevating spirit, of a friend,
 For twenty summers ripening by my side ;
 All feculence of falshood long thrown down ;
 All social virtues rising in his soul ;
 As crystal clear ; and smiling as they rise !

Here nectar flows ; it sparkles in our sight ;
Rich to the taste, and genuine from the heart.
High-flavour'd bliss for gods ! on earth how rare !
On earth how lost ! — Philander is no more.

Thinkst thou the theme intoxicates my song ?
Am I too warm ? — too warm I cannot be.
I lov'd him much ; but now I love him more.
Like birds, whose beauties languish, half conceal'd,
Till mounted on the wing, their glossy plumes
Expanded shine with azure, green, and gold ;
How blessings brighten as they take their flight !
His flight Philander took ; his upward flight,
If ever soul ascended. Had he dropt,
(That eagle-genius !) O had he let fall
One feather as he flew ; I, then, had wrote,
What friends might flatter ; prudent foes forbear ;
Rivals scarce damn ; and Zoilus reprieve.
Yet what I can, I must : it were profane
To quench a glory lighted at the skies,
And cast in shadows his illustrious close.
Strange ! the theme most affecting, most sublime,
Momentous most to man, shou'd sleep unsung !
And yet it sleeps, by genius unawak'd,
Painim or Christian ; to the blush of wit.
Man's highest triumph ! man's profoundest fall !
The death-bed of the just ! is yet undrawn
By mortal hand : it merits a divine :
Angels should paint it, angels ever there ;
There, on a post of honour, and of joy.

Dare I presume, then ? but Philander bids ;

And glory tempts, and inclination calls——
Yet am I struck; as struck the soul, beneath
Ærial groves impenetrable gloom;
Or, in some mighty ruin's solemn shade;
Or, gazing by pale lamps on high-born dust,
In vaults; thin courts of poor unflatter'd kings!
Or, at the midnight altar's hallow'd flame.
It is religion to proceed: I pause——
And, enter, aw'd, the temple of my theme.
Is it his death-bed? No, it is his shrine?
Behold him, there, just rising to a god.

The chamber where the good man meets his fate,
Is priviledg'd beyond the common walk
Of virtuous life, quite in the verge of heaven.
Fly, ye profane! if not, draw near with awe,
Receive the blessing, and adore the chance,
That threw in this Bethesda your disease;
If unrestor'd by This, despair your cure.
For, here, resistless demonstration dwells;
A death-bed's a detector of the heart.
Here tir'd dissimulation drops her masque,
Through life's grimace, that mistress of the scene!
Here real, and apparent, are the same.
You see the man; you see his hold on heav'n;
If sound his virtue; as Philander's sound.
Heav'n waits not the last moment, owns her friends
On this side death; and points them out to men,
A lecture, silent, but of sovereign pow'r!
To vice, confusion; and to virtue, peace.

Whatever farce the boastful hero plays,

Virtue alone has majesty in death ;
And greater still, the more the tyrant frowns.
Philander! he severely frown'd on thee.

- ' No warning given! unceremonious fate!
- ' A sudden rush from life's meridian joys!
- ' A wrench from all we love! from all we are!
- ' A restless bed of pain! a plunge opaque
- ' Beyond conjecture! feeble nature's dread!
- ' Strong reason's shudder at the dark unknown!
- ' A sun extinguish'd! a just opening grave!
- ' And oh! the last, last; what? (can words express?
- ' Thought reach?) the last, last—silence of a friend!

Where are those horrors, that amazement, where,
This hideous group of ills, which singly shock,
Demand from man?—I thought him man till now.

Thro' nature's wreck, thro' vanquish'd agonies,
(Like the stars struggling thro' this midnight gloom)
What gleams of joy! what more than human peace!
Where the frail mortal? the poor abject worm?
No, not in death the mortal to be found.

His conduct is a legacy for all,
Richer than Mammon's for his single heir.
His comforters he comforts; great in ruin,
With unreluctant grandeur, gives, not yields
His soul sublime; and closes with his fate.

How our hearts burnt within us at the scene!
Whence this brave bound o'er limits fix'd to man?
His God sustains him in his final hour!
His final hour brings glory to his God!
Man's glory heav'n vouchsafes to call her own.

We gaze ; we weep ; mixt tears of grief and joy !
Amazement strikes ! Devotion bursts to flame !
Christians adore ! and Infidels believe.

As some tall tower, or lofty mountain's brow,
Detains the sun, illustrious from its height ;
While rising vapours, and descending shades,
With damps, and darkness, drown the spacious vale :
Undamp't by doubt, undarken'd by despair,
Philander, thus, augustly rears his head,
At that black hour, which gen'ral horror sheds
On the low level of th' inglorious throng :
Sweet peace, and heavenly hope, and humble joy,
Divinely beam on his exalted soul ;
Destruction gild, and crown him for the skies,
With incommunicable lustre, bright.

NIGHT THE THIRD.

N A R C I S S A.

Humbly inscribed

T O H E R G R A C E

THE DUCHESS OF P—

Ignoscenda quidem, scirent si ignoscere manes.

VIRE.

C

F

To

On

Pr

I M

O

Lo

W

Co

On

TI

A

Ho

A

N

T

O

B

In

A

W

THE COMPLAINT.

NIGHT THE THIRD.

FROM dreams, where thought in fancy's maze runs
mad,

To reason, that heaven-lighted lamp in man,
Once more I wake; and at the destin'd hour,
Punctual as lovers to the moment sworn,
I keep my assignation with my woe.

O! lost to virtue, lost to manly thought,
Lost to the noble fallies of the soul!

Who think it solitude to be alone.

Communion sweet! communion large and high!

Our reason, guardian angel, and our God!

Then nearest these, when others most remote;

And all, ere long, shall be remote, but these.

How dreadful, then, to meet them all alone,

A stranger! unacknowledg'd! un approv'd!

Now woo them; wed them; bind them to thy breast:

To win thy wish, creation has no more.

Or if we wish a fourth, it is a friend——

But friends, how mortal! dangerous the desire.

Take Phoebus to yourselves, ye basking bards!

Inebriate at fair fortune's fountain head,

And reeling thro' the wilderness of joy;

Where sense runs savage, broke from reason's chain,

And sings false peace, till smother'd by the pall.
 My fortune is unlike; unlike my song;
 Unlike the deity my song invokes.
 I to day's lost-ey'd sister pay my court,
 (Endymion's rival) and her aid implore;
 Now first implor'd in succour to the muse.

Thou who didst lately borrow * Cynthia's form,
 And modestly forego thine own! O thou,
 Who didst thyself, at midnight hours, inspire!
 Say, why not Cynthia, patroness of song?
 As thou her crescent she thy character
 Assumes, still more a goddess by the change.

Are there demurring wits, who dare dispute
 This revolution in the world inspir'd?
 Ye train Pierian! to the lunar sphere,
 In silent hour, address your ardent call
 For aid immortal; less her brothers right.
 She, with the spheres harmonious, nightly leads
 The mazy dance, and hears their matchless strain,
 A strain for gods! deny'd to mortal ear.
 Transmit it, heard, thou silver queen of heaven!
 What title, or what name endears thee most?
 Cynthia! Cyllene! Phoebe!——or dost thou hear
 With higher gust, fair P——d of the skies?
 Is that the soft enchantment calls thee down,
 More pow'rful than of old Circean charm?
 Come; but from heavenly banquets with thee bring
 The soul of song; and whisper in mine ear

* At the duke of Norfolk's masquerade.

NIGHT THE THIRD.

49.

The theft divine; or in propitious dreams
(For dreams are thine) transfuse it thro' the breast
Of thy first votary,—but not thy last;
If, like thy name-sake, thou art ever kind.

And kind thou wilt be; kind on such a theme;
A theme so like thee, a quite sonar theme,
Soft, modest, melancholy, female, fair!
A theme that rose all-pale, and told my soul,
'Twas night; on her fond hopes perpetual night;
A night which struck a damp, a deadlier damp,
Than that which smote me from Philander's tomb.
Narcissa follows, ere his tomb is clos'd;
Woes cluster; rare are solitary woes;
They love a train, they tread each other's heel;
Her death invades his mournful right; and claims
The grief that started from my lids for him:
Seizes the faithless, alienated tear,
Or shares it, ere it falls. So frequent death;
Sorrow, he more than causes, he confounds:
For human sighs his rival strokes contend,
And make distress, distinction. Oh Philander!
What was thy fate? a double fate to me;
Portent, and pain! a menace, and a blow!
Like the black raven hovering o'er my peace,
Not less a bird of omen, than of prey.
It call'd Narcissa long before her hour;
It call'd her tender soul by break of bliss,
From the first blossom, from the buds of joy;
Those few our noxious fate unblasted leaves
In this inclement clime of human life.

Sweet harmonist! and beautiful as sweet!
 And young as beautiful! and soft as young!
 And gay as soft! and innocent as gay!
 And happy (if aught happy here) as good!
 For fortune fond had built her nest on high.
 Like birds quite exquisite of note and plume,
 Transfixt by fate (who loves a lofty mark)
 How from the summit of the grove she fell,
 And left it unharmonious! all its charm
 Extinguish'd in the wonders of her song!
 Her song still vibrates in my ravish'd ear,
 Still melting there, and with voluptuous pain
 (O to forget her!) thrilling thro' my heart!

Song, beauty, youth, love, virtue, joy! this group
 Of bright ideas, flow'rs of paradise,
 As yet unforfeit! in one blaze we bind,
 Kneel, and present it to the skies; as all
 We guess of heaven: and these were all her own;
 And she was mine; and I was—was!—most blest,
 Gay title of the deepest misery!
 As bodies grow more pond'rous, robb'd of life;
 Good lost weighs more in grief, than gain'd, in joy.
 Like blossom'd trees o'erturn'd by vernal storm,
 Lovely in death the beauteous ruin lay;
 And if in death still lovely, lovelier there;
 Far lovelier! pity swells the tide of love.
 And will not the severe excuse a sigh?
 Scorn the proud man that is ashamed to weep;
 Our tears indulg'd indeed deserve our shame.
 Ye that e'er lost an angel! pity me.

Soon as the lustre languish'd in her eye,
Dawning a dimmer day on human sight;
And on her cheek, the residence of spring,
Pale omen fate; and scatter'd fears around
On all that saw (and who would cease to gaze,
That once had seen?) with haste, parental haste,
I flew, I snatch'd her from the rigid north,
Her native bed, on which bleak Boreas blew,
And bore her nearer to the sun; the sun
(As if the sun could envy) check'd his beam,
Deny'd his wonted succour, nor with more
Regret beheld her drooping, than the bells
Of lilies; fairest lilies, not so fair.

Queen lilies! and ye painted-populace!
Who dwell in fields, and lead ambrosial lives;
In morn and ev'ning dew your beauties bathe,
And drink the sun; which gives your cheeks to glow,
And out-blush (mine excepted) ev'ry fair;
You gladlier grew, ambitious of her hand,
Which often crop'd your odours, incense meet
To thought so pure! Ye lovely fugitives!
Coëval race with man! for man you smile;
Why not smile at him too? you share indeed
His sudden pass; but not his constant pain.

So man is made, nought ministers delight,
But what his glowing passions can engage:
And glowing passions, bent on aught below,
Must, soon or late, with anguish turn the scale:
And anguish, after rapture, how severe!
Rapture? bold man! who tempts the wrath divine,

By plucking fruit deny'd to mortal taste,
 While here, presuming on the rights of heaven,
 For transport dost thou call on ev'ry hour,
 Lorenzo? At thy friend's expence be wise,
 Lean not on earth, 'twill pierce thee to the heart,
 A broken reed, at best: but, oft, a spear:
 On its sharp point peace bleeds, and hope expires.

Turn, hopeless thought, turn from her:—thought
 Resenting rallies, and wakes ev'ry woe. [repell'd,
 Snatch'd ere thy prime, and in thy bridal hour,
 And when kind fortune, with thy lover smil'd,
 And when high-flavour'd thy fresh-op'ning joys,
 And when blind man pronounc'd thy bliss complete,
 And on a foreign shore, where strangers wept:
 Strangers to thee, and, more surprising still,
 Strangers to kindness, wept: their eyes let fall
 Inhuman tears, strange tears, that trickled down
 From marble hearts, obdurate tenderness,
 A tenderness that call'd them more severe,
 In spite of nature's soft persuasion, steel'd,
 While nature melted, superstition sav'd,
 That mourn'd the dead, and this deny'd a grave.

Their sighs incens'd, sighs foreign to the will:
 Their will the tyger suck'd, outrag'd the storm.
 For, oh, the curst ungodliness of zeal,
 While sinful flesh relented, spirit nurs'd
 In blind infallibility's embrace,
 The fainted spirit petrify'd the breast,
 Deny'd the charity of dust, to spread

O'er dust! a charity their dogs enjoy.
What could I do? what succour? what resource?
With pious sacrilege, a grave I stole;
With impious piety, that grave I wrong'd;
Short in my duty; coward in my grief!
More like her murderer, than friend, I crept;
With soft suspended step; and muffled deep
In midnight darkness, whisper'd my last sigh.
I whisper'd what should echo thro' their realms;
Nor writ her name, whose tomb should pierce the skies.
Presumptuous fear! how durst I dread her foes,
While nature's loudest dictates I obey'd?
Pardon necessity, blest shade! of grief
And indignation rival bursts I pour'd;
Half-execration mingled with my prayer;
Kindled at man, while I his God ador'd;
Sore-grudg'd the savage land her sacred dust:
Stamp't the curst soil; and with humanity
(Deny'd Narcissa) wish'd them all a grave.

Glows my resentment into guilt! what guilt
Can equal violations of the dead?
The dead! how sacred! sacred is the dust
Of this heav'n-labour'd form, erect, divine!
This heav'n assum'd majestic robe of earth,
He deign'd to wear, who hung the vast expanse.
With azure bright, and cloath'd the sun in gold.
When ev'ry passion sleeps that can offend;
When strikes us ev'ry motive that can melt:
When man can wreak his rancour uncontroll'd,
That strongest curb on insult and ill-will;

Then, spleen to dust? the dust of innocence?
 An angel's dust!——This Lucifer transcends;
 When he contended for the patriarch's bones,
 'Twas not the strife of malice, but of pride;
 The strife of pontiff pride, not pontiff gall.

Far less than this is shocking in a race
 Most wretched, but from streams of mutual love;
 And uncreated, but for love divine;
 And but for love divine, this moment, lost,
 By fate resorb'd, and sunk in endless night.
 Man hard of heart to man! of horrid things
 Most horrid! 'midst stupendous, highly strange!
 Yet oft his courtesies are smothered wrongs;
 Pride brandishes the favours he confers,
 And contumelious his humanity:
 What then is vengeance? hear it not, ye stars!
 And thou, pale moon! turn paler at the sound;
 Man is to man the forest, forest ill.
 A previous blast foretells the rising storm;
 O'erwhelming turrets threaten ere they fall;
 Volcano's bellow ere they disembody;
 Earth trembles ere her yawning jaws devour;
 And smoke betrays the wide-consuming fire:
 Ruin from man, is most conceal'd when near,
 And sends the dreadful tidings in the blow.
 Is this the flight of fancy? would it were!
 Heav'n's Sov'reign saves all beings but himself,
 That hideous sight, a naked human heart.

Fir'd is the muse? and let the muse be fir'd:
 Who not inflam'd, when what he speaks, he feels,

And in the nerve most tender, in his friends?
Shame to mankind! Philander had his foes;
He felt the truths I sing, and I in him.
But he, nor I, feel more; past ills, Narcissus!
Aie sunk in thee thou recent wound of heart!
Which bloods with other cares, with other pangs;
Pangs num'rous, as the num'rous ills that swarm'd
O'er thy distinguish'd fate, and, clust'ring there
Thick as the locust on the land of Nile,
Made death more deadly, and more dark the grave.
Reflect (if not forgot my touching tale)
How was each circumstance with aspics arm'd?
An aspic, each; and all, an Hydra-woe.
What strong Herculean virtue could suffice?—
Or is it virtue to be conquer'd, here?
This hoary cheek a train of tears bedews;
And each tear mourns its own distinct distress;
And each distress, distinctly mourn'd, demands
Of grief still more, as heighten'd by the whole.
A grief like this proprietors excludes:
Not friends alone such obsequies deplore;
They make mankind the mourner; carry sighs
Far as the fatal fame can wing her way,
And turn the gayest thought of gayest age,
Down their right channel, thro' the vale of death.

The vale of death! that hush'd Cimmerian vale,
Where darkness, brooding o'er unfinish'd fates,
With raven wing incumbent, waits the day
(Dread day!) that interdicts all future change!
That subterranean world, that land of ruin!

Fit walk, Lorenzo, for proud human thought!
 There let my thought expatiate; and explore
 Balsamic truths, and healing sentiments,
 Of all most wanted, and most welcome, here.
 For gay Lorenzo's sake, and for thy own,
 My soul! ' The fruits of dying friends survey;
 ' Expose the vain of life; weigh life and death:
 ' Give death his eulogy; thy fear subdue;
 ' And labour that first palm of noble minds,
 ' A manly scorn of terror from the tomb.'

This harvest reap from thy Narcissa's grave.
 As poets feign'd from Ajax' streaming blood
 Arose, with grief inscrib'd, a mournful flow'r;
 Let wisdom blossom from my mortal wound.
 And, first, of dying friends; what fruit from these?
 It brings us more than triple aid; an aid
 To chase our thoughtlessness, fear, pride, and guilt.

Our dying friends come o'er us like a cloud,
 To damp our brainless ardors; and abate
 That glare of life, which often blinds the wise.
 Our dying friends are pioneers, to smoothe
 Our rugged pass to death; to break those bars
 Of terror and abhorrance, nature throws
 Cross our abstracted way; and, thus, to make
 Welcome, as safe, our port from ev'ry storm.
 Each friend by fate snatch'd from us, is a plume
 Pluck'd from the wing of human vanity,
 Which makes us stoop from our ærial heights,
 And, damp'd with omen of our own decease,
 On drooping pinions of ambition lower'd,

Just skim earth's surface, ere we break it up,
O'er putrid earth to scratch a little dust,
And save the world a nuisance. Smitten friends
Are angels sent on errands full of love;
For us they languish, and for us they die:
And shall they languish, shall they die, in vain?
Ungrateful, shall we grieve their hovering shades,
Which wait the revolution in our hearts?
Shall we disdain their silent, soft address;
Their posthumous advice, and pious prayer?
Senseless, as herds that graze their hallow'd graves,
Tread under foot their agonies and groans;
Frustrate their anguish, and destroy their deaths?

Lorenzo! no; the thought of death indulge;
Give it its wholesome empire; let it reign,
That kind chastiser of thy soul in joy!
Its reign will spread thy glorious conquests far,
And still the tumults of thy ruffled breast:
Auspicious aera, golden days, begin,
The thought of death, shall, like a god, inspire.
And why not think on death? is life the theme
Of ev'ry thought? and wish of ev'ry hour?
And song of ev'ry joy? surprising truth.
The beaten spaniel's fondness not so strange,
To wave the numerous ills that seize on life
As their own property, their lawful prey;
See man has measur'd half his weary stage,
His luxuries have left him no reserve,
No maiden relishes, unbreach'd delights;
On cold-fer'd repetitions he subsists.

And in the tasteless present chews the past;
 Disgusted chews and scarce can swallow down
 Like lavish ancestors, his earlier years
 Have disinherited his future hours,
 Which starve on orts, and glean their former field.

Live ever here, Lorenzo!—Shocking thought!
 So shocking, they who wish, disown it too;
 Disown from shame, what they from folly crave.
 Live ever in the womb, nor see the light?
 For what live e'er here?—With lab'ring step
 To tread our former footsteps? Pace the round
 Eternal? To climb life's worn, heavy wheel,
 Which draws up nothing new? To beat, and beat,
 The beaten track? To bid each wretched day
 The former mock? To surfeit on the same,
 And yawn our joys? or thank a misery
 For change, tho' sad? To see what we have seen?
 Hear, till unheard, the same old flabber'd tale?
 To taste the tasted, and at each return
 Less tasteful? O'er our palates to decant
 Another vintage? Strain a flatter year,
 Thro' loaded vessels, and a laxer tone?
 Crazy machines to grind earth's-wasted fruits!
 Ill-ground; and worse concocted! Load, not life!
 The rational foul kennels of excess?
 Still streaming thorough-fares of dull debauch!
 Trembling each gulp, lest death should snatch the bowl!

Such of our fine ones is the wish refin'd!
 So would they have it: elegant desire!
 Why not invite the bellowing stalls, and wilds?

But such examples might the riot awe.

Thro' want of virtue, that is, want of thought,
(Tho' on bright thought they father all their flights)

To what are they reduc'd ? to love, and hate,

The same vain world ; to censure, and espouse,

This painted shrew of life, who calls them fool

Each moment of each day ; to flatter bad

Thro' dread of worse ; to cling to this rude rock,

Barren, to them, of good and sharp with ill,

And hourly blacken'd with impending storms,

And infamous for wreck of human hope——

Scar'd at the gloomy gulph, that yawns beneath.

Such are their triumphs ! such their pangs of joy !

'Tis time, high time, to shift this dismal scene.

This hugg'd, this hideous state, what art can cure ?

One only, but that one, what all may reach ;

Virtue——She, wonder-working goddess ! charms

That rock to bloom ; and tames the painted shrew ;

And what will more surprize, Lorenzo ! gives

To life's sick, nauseous iteration, change ;

And straiten nature's circle to a line,

Believ'st thou this, Lorenzo ? lend an ear,

A patient ear, thou'lt blush to disbelieve.

A languid, leaden iteration reigns.

And ever must, o'er those, whose joys are joys

Of sight, smell, taste : the cuckow-seasons sing

The same dull note to such as nothing prize,

But what those seasons from the teeming earth,

To doating sense indulge. Bat nobler minds,

Which relish fruits unripen'd by the sun,

Make their days various; various as the days
 On the dove's neck, which warms in his rays,
 On minds of dove-like innocence possess,
 On lighten'd minds, that bask in virtue's beams,
 Nothing hangs tedious, nothing old revolves
 In that, for which they long; for which they live.
 Their glorious efforts, wing'd with heav'nly hope,
 Each, rising morning sees still higher rise;
 Each bounteous dawn its novelty presents
 To worth maturing, new strength, lustre, fame;
 While nature's circle, like a chariot-wheel
 Rolling beneath their elevated aims,
 Makes their fair prospect fairer ev'ry hour;
 Advancing virtue, in a line to bliss;
 Virtue, which Christian motives best inspire!
 And bliss, which Christian schemes alone insure!

And shall we then, for virtue's sake, commence
 Apostates? and turn infidels for joy?

A truth it is, few doubt, but fewer trust;

He sins against this life, who slight the next.

What is this life? how few their fav'rite know!

Fond in the dark, and blind in our embrace,

By passionately loving life, we make

Lov'd life unlovely; hugging her to death.

We give to time eternity's regard;

And, dreaming, take our passage for our port.

Life has no value, as an end, but means;

An end, deplorable! a means divine!

When 'tis our all, 'tis nothing; worse than naught;

A nest of pains; when, held as nothing, much!

Like some fair hum'rists, life is most enjoy'd,
When courted least; most worth, when disesteem'd;
Then 'tis the seat of comfort, rich in peace;
In prospect richer far; important! awful!
Not to be mention'd, but with shouts of praise!
Not to be thought on, but with tides of joy!
The mighty basis of eternal bliss!

Where now the barren rock! the painted shrew?
Where now, Lorenzo! life's eternal round?
Have I not made my triple promise good?
Vain is the world; but only to the vain.
To what compare we then this varying scene,
Whose worth ambiguous rises, and declines?
Waxes; and wanes? (in all propitious, night
Assists me here) compare it to the moon;
Dark in herself and indigent; but rich
In borrow'd lustre from a higher sphere.
When gross guilt interposes, lab'ring earth,
O'ershadow'd, mourns a deep eclipse of joy;
Her joys, at brightest, pallid to that font
Of full effulgent glory, whence they flow.

Nor is that glory distant: Oh Lorenzo!
A good man, and an angel! these between
How thin the barrier? what divides their fate?
Perhaps a moment; or, perhaps a year;
Or, if an age, it is a moment still;
A moment, or eternity's forgot.
Then be, what once they were, who now are gods;
Be what Philander was, and claim the skies.
Starts timid nature at the gloomy pass?

The soft transition call it; and be cheer'd:
 Such it is often, and why not to thee?
 To hope the best is pious, brave, and wise,
 And may itself procure, what it presumes.
 Life is much flatter'd, death is much traduc'd;
 Compare the rivals, and the kinder crown.
 'Strange competition!'—True, Lorenzo, strange!
 So little life can cast into the scale.

Life makes the soul dependent on the dust;
 Death gives her wings to mount above the spheres.
 Thro' chinks, stil'd organs, dim life peeps at light;
 Death bursts th' involving cloud, and all is day;
 All eye, all ear, the disembodiy'd power.
 Death has feign'd evils, nature shall not feel;
 Life, ills substantial, wisdom cannot shun.
 Is not the mighty mind, that son of heaven,
 By tyrant life dethron'd, imprison'd, pain'd:
 By death enlarg'd, ennobl'd, deify'd?
 Death but entombs the body; life the soul.

'Is death then guiltless? How he marks his way
 'With dreadful waste of what deserves to shine:
 'Art, genius, fortune, elevated power;
 'With various lustres these light up the world,
 'Which death puts out, and darkens human race.
 I grant, Lorenzo, this indictment just:
 The sage, peer, potentate, king, conqueror;
 Death humbles these; more harsh'rous life, the man.
 Life is the triumph of our mould'ring clay;
 Death, of the spirit infinite, divine.
 Death has no dread, but what frail life imparts;

Nor life true joy, but what kind death improves.
No bliss has life to boast, till death can give
Far greater; life's a debtor to the grave,
Dark lattice! letting in eternal day.

Lorenzo! blush at fondness for a life,
Which sends celestial souls on errands vile,
To cater for the sense; and serve at boards;
Where ev'ry ranger of the wilds, perhaps
Each reptile, justly claims our upper hand.
Luxurious feast! a soul, a soul immortal,
In all the dainties of a brute bemir'd!
Lorenzo! blush at terror for a death
Which gives thee to repose in festive bowers,
Where nectars sparkle, angels minister,
And more than angels share, and raise, and crown,
And eternize the birth, bloom, bursts of bliss.
What need I more? O death, the palm is thine.

Then welcome, death; thy dreaded harbingers;
Age, and disease; disease, tho' long my guest;
That plucks my nerves, those tender strings of life;
Which, pluckt a little more, will toll the bell;
That calls my few friends to my funeral;
Where feeble nature drops, perhaps a tear;
While reason and religion, better taught;
Congratulate the dead, and crown his tomb
With wreath triumphant. Death is victory;
It binds in chains the raging ills of life;
Lust and ambition; wrath and avarice,
Dragg'd at his chariot-wheel, applaud his power,
That ills corrosive; cares importunate;

Are not immortal too, O death! is thine.
Our day of dissolution! —name it right;
'Tis our great pay-day; 'tis our harvest, rich
And ripe: what tho' the sickle, sometimes keen,
Just scars us as we reap the golden grain?
More than thy balm, O Gilead! heals the wound.
Birth's feeble cry, and death's deep dismal groan,
Are slender tributes low-taxt nature pays
For mighty gain: the gain of each, a life!
But O! the last the former so transcends,
Life dies, compar'd; life lives beyond the grave.

And feel I, death! no joy from thought of thee?
Death, the great counsellor, who man inspires
With ev'ry nobler thought, and fairer deed!
Death, the deliv'rer, who rescues man!
Death, the rewarder, who the rescu'd crowns!
Death, that absolves my birth; a curse without it!
Rich death, that realizes all my cares,
Toils, virtues, hopes; without it a chimera!
Death, of all pain the period, not of joy;
Joy's source and subject, still subsist unhurt;
One, in my soul; and one, in her great fire;
Tho' the four winds were warring for my dust.
Yes, and from winds, and waves, and central night,
Tho' prison'd there, my dust too I reclaim,
(To dust when drop proud nature's proudest spheres)
And live entire. Death is the crown of life;
Were death deny'd, poor man would live in vain;
Were death deny'd, to live would not be life;
Were death deny'd, ev'n fools would wish to die.

Death wounds to cure: we fall; we rise; we reign;
Spring from our fetters; fasten in the skies;
Where blooming Eden withers in our sight:
Death gives us more than was in Eden lost.
This king of terrors is the prince of peace.
When shall I die to vanity, pain, death?
When shall I die?—When shall I live for ever?



NIGHT THE FOURTH.

THE

CHRISTIAN TRIUMPH;

CONTAINING

Our only CURE for the FEAR of DEATH;

AND

Proper SENTIMENTS of HEART on that inestimable
Blessing.

Humbly inscribed

TO THE HONOURABLE

M R. Y O R K E.

C

A

T

H

T

I

R

R

T

T

T

T

R

I

T

T H E

C O M P L A I N T.

NIGHT THE FOURTH.

A MUCH indebted Muse, O Yorke ! intrudes.
Amid the smiles of fortune, and of youth,
Thine ear is patient of a serious song
How deep implanted in the breast of man
The dread of death ? I sing its sov'reign cure.

Why start at death ? where is he ? death arriv'd,
Is past ; not come, or gone, he's never here.
Ere hope, sensation fails ; black boding man
Receives, not suffers, death's tremendous blow.
The knell, the shroud, the mattock and the grave ;
The deep damp vault, the darkness and the worm ;
These are the bugbears of a winter's eve,
The terrors of the living not the dead.
Imagination's fool, and error's wretch,
Man makes a death, which nature never made ;
Then on the point of his own fancy falls ;
And feels a thousand deaths in fearing one.

But were death frightful, what has age to fear ?
If prudent, age should meet the friendly foe,
And shelter in his hospitable gloom.
I scarce can meet a monument, but holds
My younger ; every date cries—' Come away.'
And what recalls me ? look the world around,

And tell me what: the wisest cannot tell.
Should any born of woman give his thought:
Full range, on just dislike's unbounded field;
Of things, the vanity; of men, the flaws;
Flaws in the best; the many, flaw all o'er;
As leopards, spotted, or as Ethiops, dark;
Vivacious ill; good dying immature;
(How immature Narcissa's marble tells)
And at its death bequeathing endless pain;
His heart, tho' bold would sicken at the sight;
And spend itself in sighs, for future scenes.

But grant to life, (and just it is to grant
To lucky life) some perquisites of joy;
A time there is, when like a thrice told-tale,
Long risked life of sweet can yield no more,
But from our comment on the comedy,
Pleasing reflections on parts well sustain'd,
Or purpos'd emendations where we fail'd,
Or hopes of plaudits from our candid judge,
When, on their exit, souls are bid unrobe,
Toss fortune back her tinsel and her plume,
And drop this mask of flesh behind the scene.

With me, that time is come; my world is dead;
A new world rises, and new manners reign:
Foreign comedians, a spruce band! arrive,
To push me from the scene, or hiss me there.
What a pert race starts up! the strangers gaze,
And I at them; my neighbour is unknown;
Nor that the worst: ah me! the dire effect
Of loitering here, of death defrauded long;

Of old so gracious (and let that suffice)
My very master knows me not. —

Shall I dare say, petular is the fate;
I've been so long remember'd, I'm forgot,
An object ever pressing dims the sight,
And hides behind its ardor to be seen.
When in his courtiers ears I pour my plaint,
They drink it as the nectar of the great;
And squeeze my hand, and beg me come to-morrow;
Refusal! canst thou wear a smoother form?

Indulge me, nor conceive I drop my theme:
Who cheapens life, abates the fear of death:
Twice-told the period spent on stubborn Troy,
Court favour, yet untaken, I besiege;
Ambition's ill-judg'd effort to be rich.
Alas! ambition makes my little, less;
Embittering the possess'd: why wish for more?
Wishing, of all employments, is the worst;
Philosophy's reverse! and health's decay!
Were I as plump as stall'd theology,
Wishing would waste me to this shade again.
Were I as wealthy as a south-sea dream,
Wishing is an expedient to be poor.
Wishing that constant hectic of a fool;
Caught at a court; surg'd off by purer air,
And simpler diet; gifts of rural life!

Blest be that hand divine which gently laid
My heart at rest beneath this humble shed.
The world's a stately bark, on dang'rous seas,
With pleasure seen, but boarded at our peril:

Here on a single plank, thrown safe ashore,
 I hear the tumult of the distant throng;
 As that of seas remote, or dying storms;
 And meditate on scenes, more silent still;
 Pursue my theme, and fight the fear of death.
 Here, like a shepherd gazing from his hut,
 Touching his reed, or leaning on his staff,
 Eager ambition's fiery chace I see;
 I see the circling hunt of noisy men,
 Burst law's inclosure, leap the mounds of right,
 Pursuing and pursu'd, each other's prey;
 As wolves, for rapine; as the fox, for wiles;
 Till death, that mighty hunter, earths them all.

Why all this toil for triumphs of an hour?
 What though we wade in wealth, or soar in fame?
 Earth's highest station ends in, 'Here he lies:'
 And 'dust to dust' concludes her noblest song.
 If this song lives, posterity shall know
 One, though in Britain born, with courtiers bred,
 Who thought ev'n gold might come a day too late;
 Nor on his subtle death-bed plann'd his scheme
 For future vacancies in church or state;
 Some avocation deeming it—to die;
 Unbit by rage canine of dying rich;
 Guilt's blunder! and the loudest laugh of hell.

O my coëvals! remnants of yourselves!
 Poor human ruins, tott'ring o'er the grave!
 Shall we, shall aged men, like aged trees,
 Strike deeper their vile root, and closer cling,
 Still more enamour'd of this wretched soil?

Shall our pale, wither'd hands, be still stretch'd out,
Trembling, at once, with eagerness and age ?
With av'rice, and convulsions, grasping hard ?
Grasping at air, for what has earth beside ?
Man wants but little ; nor that little, long ;
How soon must he resign his very dust,
Which frugal nature lent him for an hour !
Years unexperienc'd rush on num'rous ills ;
And soon as man, expert from time, has found
The key of life, it opes the gates of death.

When in this vale of years I backward look,
And miss such numbers, numbers too of such,
Firmer in health, and greener in their age,
And stricter on their guard, and sitter far
To play life's subtle game, I scarce believe
I still survive : and am I fond of life,
Who scarce can think it possible I live ?
Alive by miracle ! or, what is next,
Alive by Mead ! if I am still alive,
Who long have bury'd what gives life to live,
Firmness of nerve, and energy of thought.
Life's lee is not more shallow, than impure,
And vapid ; sense and reason shew the door,
Call for my bier, and point me to the dust.

O thou great arbiter of life and death !
Nature's immortal, immaterial sun ;
Whose all-prolific beam late call'd me forth
From darkness, teeming darkness, where I lay
The worm's inferior, and, in rank, beneath
The dust I tread on, high to bear my brow,

To drink the spirit of the golden day,
And triumph in existence; and couldst know
No motive, but my bliss; and hast ordain'd
A rise in blessing! with the patriarch's joy,
Thy call I follow to the land unknown;
I trust in thee, and know in whom I trust;
Or life, or death, is equal; neither weighs:
All weight in this—O let me live to thee!

Though nature's terrors, thus, may be repress'd;
Still frowns grim death; guilt points the tyrant's spear.
And whence all human guilt? from death forgot.
Ah me! too long I set at nought the swarm
Of friendly warnings, which around me flew;
And smil'd, unsmitten: small my cause to smile!
Death's admonitions, like shafts upwards shot,
More dreadful by delay; the longer ere
They strike our hearts, the deeper is their wound.
O think how deep, Lorenzo! here it stings
Who can appease its anguish? how it burns!
What hand the barb'd, envenom'd, thought can draw?
What healing hand can pour the balm of peace,
And turn my sight undaunted on the tomb?

With joy,—with grief, that healing hand I see;
Ah! too conspicuous! it is fix'd on high.
On high?—what means my phrenzy? I blaspheme;
Alas! how low? how far beneath the skies?
The skies it form'd; and now it bleeds for me—
But bleeds the balm I want—yet still it bleeds.
Draw the dire steel—Ah no!—the dreadful blessing
What heart or can sustain, or dares forego?

There hangs all human hope ; that nail supports
The falling universe : that gone, we drop ;
Horror receives us, and the dismal wish
Creation had been smother'd in her birth——
Darkness his curtain, and his bed the dust ;
When stars and sun are dust beneath his throne !
In heav'n itself can such indulgence dwell ?
O what a groan was there ! a groan not his.
He seiz'd our dreadful right ; the load sustain'd ;
And heav'd the mountain from a guilty world.
A thousand worlds, so bought, were bought too dear.
Sensations new in angels bosoms rise ;
Suspend their song ; and make a pause in bliss.

O for their song to reach my lofty theme !
Inspire me, Night ! with all thy tuneful spheres ;
Whilst I with seraphs share seraphic themes,
And shew to men the dignity of man ;
Lest I blaspheme my subject with my song.
Shall Pagan pages glow celestial flame,
And Christian languish ? on our hearts, not heads,
Falls the foul infamy : My heart ! awake.
What can awake thee, unawak'd by this,
' Expended Deity on human weal ?'
Feel the great truths, which burst the tenfold night:
Of heathen error, with a golden flood
Of endless day : to feel, is to be fir'd ;
And to believe, Lorenzo ! is to feel.

Thou must indulgent, most tremendous pow'r !
Still more tremendous, for thy wond'rous love !
That arms, with awe more awful, thy commands ;

And foul transgression dips in sev'nfold night,
 How our hearts tremble at thy love immense!
 In love immense, inviolably just!
 Thou, rather than thy justice should be stain'd,
 Didst stain the cross, and work of wonders far
 The greatest, that thy dearest far might bleed.

Bold thought! shall I dare speak it, or repress?
 Should man more execrate, or boast the guilt.
 Which rous'd such vengeance? which such love inflam'd?
 O'er guilt (how mountainous!) with out-stretch'd arms,
 Stern justice, and soft-smiling love, embrace,
 Supporting, in full majesty, thy throne,
 When seem'd its majesty to need support,
 Or that, or man, inevitably lost.
 What, but the fathomless of thought divine,
 Could labour such expedient from despair,
 And rescue both! both rescue! both exalt!
 O how are both exalted by the deed!
 The wond'rous deed! or shall I call it more?
 A wonder in omnipotence itself!
 A mystery, no less to gods than men!

Not, thus, our infidels th' eternal draw,
 A God all o'er, consummate, absolute,
 Full-orb'd, in his whole round of rays complete:
 They set at odds heav'n's jarring attributes;
 And with one excellence, another wound;
 Maim heav'n's perfection, break its equal beams,
 Bid 'mercy triumph over—God himself,
 Undeify'd by their opprobrious praise:
 A God all merry, is a God unjust.

Ye brainless wits ! ye baptiz'd infidels !
 Ye worse for mending ! wash'd to fouler stains !
 The ransom was paid down ; the fund of heav'n,
 Heav'n's inexhaustible exhausted fund,
 Amazing, and amaz'd, pour'd forth the price,
 All price beyond : though curious to compute,
 Archangels fail'd to cast the mighty sum :
 Its value vast ungraspt by minds create,
 For ever hides, and glows, in the supreme.

And was the ransom paid ? it was : and paid
 (What can exalt the bounty more ?) for you.
 The sun beheld it — no, the shocking scene
 Drove back his chariot ; midnight veil'd his face ;
 Not such as this ; not such as nature makes ;
 A midnight, nature shudder'd to behold ;
 A midnight new ! a dread eclipse (without
 Opposing spheres) from her Creator's frown !
 Sun ! didst thou fly thy Maker's pain ? or start
 At that enormous load of human guilt,
 Which bow'd his blessed head, o'erwhelm'd his cross,
 Made groan the centre ; burst earth's marble womb,
 With pangs, strange pangs ! deliver'd of her dead ?
 Hell howl'd ; and heav'n that hour let fall a tear ;
 Heav'n wept, that men might smile ! heav'n bled, that
 Might never die ! — [man

And is devotion virtue ? 'tis compell'd :
 What heart of stone, but glows at thoughts like these ?
 Such contemplations mount us ; and should mount
 The mind still higher ; nor ever glance on man,
 Unraptur'd, uninflam'd, — Where roll my thoughts

To rest from wonders? other wonders rise;
 And strike where-e'er they roll: my soul is caught:
 Heav'n's sov'reign blessings, clust'ring from the cross,
 Rush on her, in a throng, and close her round,
 The pris'ner of amaze!—— In his blest life,
 I see the path, and, in his death, the price,
 And in his great ascent, the proof supreme
 Of immortality—— And did he rise?
 Hear, O ye nations! hear it, O ye dead!
 He rose! he rose! he burst the bars of death.
 Lift up your heads, ye everlasting gates!
 And give the King of glory to come in:
 Who is the King of glory? He who left
 His throne of glory, for the pang of death:
 Lift up your heads, ye everlasting gates!
 And give the King of glory to come in.
 Who is the King of glory? He who slew
 The rav'nous foe, that gorg'd all human race!
 The King of glory, He, whose glory fill'd
 Heav'n with amazement at his love to man;
 And with divine complacency beheld
 Pow'rs most illumin'd, wilder'd in the theme.

The theme, the joy, how then shall man sustain?
 Oh the burst gates! crush'd sling! demolish'd throne!
 Last gasp of vanquish'd death. Shout earth and heaven
 This sum of good to man. Whose nature, then,
 Took wing, and mounted with him from the tomb!
 Then, then, I rose; then first humanity
 Triumphant pass the crystal ports of light,
 (Stupendous guest!) and seiz'd eternal youth;

Seiz'd in our name. E'er since, 'tis blasphemous
To call man mortal. Man's mortality
Was, then, transferr'd to death ; and heav'n's duration
Unalienably seal'd to this frail frame,
This child of dust.—Man, all immortal ! hail ;
Hail, heav'n ! all-lavish of strange gifts to man !
Thine all the glory : man's the boundless bliss.

Where am I rapt by this triumphant theme,
On Christian joy's exulting wing, above
Th'Aonian mount ?—Alas, small cause for joy !
What if to pain immortal ? If extent
Of being, to preclude a close of woe !

Where, then, my boast of immortality ?
I boast it still, though cover'd o'er with guilt :
For guilt, not innocence, his life he pour'd ;
'Tis guilt alone can justify his death ;
Nor that, unless his death can justify
Relenting guilt in Heav'n's indulgent sight.
If, sick of folly, I relent ; he writes

My name in heav'n, with that inverted spear
(A spear deep dipt in blood !) which pierc'd his side,
And open'd there a font for all mankind,
Who strive, who combat crimes, to drink, and live :
This, only this, subdues the fear of death.

And what is this ?—Survey the wond'rous cure :
And at each step, let higher wonder rise !

• Pardon for infinite offence ! and pardon
• Through means, that speak its value infinite !
• A pardon bought with blood ! with blood divine !
• With blood divine of him, I made my foe !

Persisted to provoke! though woo'd, and aw'd,
 ' Blest, and chastis'd, a flagrant rebel still!
 ' A rebel 'midst the thunders of his throne!
 ' Nor I alone, a rebel universe!
 ' My species up in arms! not one exempt!
 ' Yet for the foulest of the foul, he dies.
 ' Most joy'd, for the redeem'd from deepest guilt!
 ' As if our race were held of highest rank;
 ' And Godhead dearer, as more kind to man!

Bound; every heart; and every bosom, burn!
 Oh what a scale of miracles is here!
 Its lowest round, high-planted on the skies;
 Its tow'ring summit lost beyond the thought.
 Of man or angel! Oh that I could climb
 The wonderful ascent, with equal praise!
 Praise! flow for ever, (if astonishment
 Will give thee leave) my praise! for ever flow;
 Praise ardent, cordial, constant, to high Heav'n
 More fragrant, than Arabia sacrific'd;
 And all her spicy mountains in a flashe.

So dear, so due to Heav'n, shall praise descend,
 With her soft plume, (from plausive angels wing
 First pluck'd by man) to tickle mortal ears,
 Thus diving in the pockets of the great?
 Is praise the perquisite of ev'ry paw,
 Though black as hell, that grapples well for gold?
 Oh love of gold, thou meanest of amours;
 Shall praise her odours waste on virtue's deed,
 Embalm the base, perfume the stench of guilt,
 Earn dirty bread by washing Æthiops fair,

Removing filth, or sinking it from sight,
 A scavenger in scenes, where vacant posts,
 Like gibbets yet untenanted, expect
 Their future ornaments? From courts and thrones,
 Return, apostate praise? thou vagabond!
 Thou prostitute! to thy first love return,
 Thy first, thy greatest, once unrival'd theme.

There flow redundant; like Meander flow,
 Back to thy fountain; to that Parent Power,
 Who gives the tongue to sound, the thought to soar,
 The soul to be. Men homage pay to men,
 Thoughtless beneath whose dreadful eye they bow
 In mutual awe profound, of clay to clay,
 Of guilt to guilt; and turn their backs on thee,
 Great Sire! whom thrones celestial ceaseless sing;
 To prostrate angels, an amazing scene!
 O the presumption of man's awe for man! —
 Man's Author! End! Restorer! Law! and Judge!
 Thine all; day thine, and thine this gloom of night,
 With all her wealth, with all her radiant worlds!
 What, night eternal, but a frown from thee?
 What, heav'n's meridian glory, but thy smile?
 And shall not praise be thine! not human praise?
 While heav'n's high host on hallelujahs live?

O may I breathe no longer, than I breathe
 My soul in praise to him, who gave my soul,
 And all her infinite of prospect fair,
 Cut thro' the shades of hell, great love! by thee,
 Oh most adorable! most unador'd!
 Where shall that praise begin, which ne'er should end?

Where-e'er I turn, what claim on all applause!
 How is night's sable mantle labour'd o'er,
 How richly wrought with attributes divine!
 What wisdom shines! what love! this midnight pomp,
 This gorgeous arch, with golden worlds inlaid!
 Built with divine ambition! nought to thee;
 For others this profusion: thou, apart,
 Above, beyond! Oh tell me, mighty Mind!
 Where art thou? shall I dive into the deep?
 Call to the sun, or ask the roaring winds,
 For their Creator? shall I question loud
 The thunder, if in that th' Almighty dwells?
 Or holds he furious storms in straiten'd reins,
 And bids fierce whirlwinds wheel his rapid car?

What mean these questions?—trembling I retract;
 My prostrate soul adores the present God:
 Praise I a distant Deity? he tunes
 My voice, (if tun'd,) the nerve, that writes, sustains:
 Wrapp'd in his being, I resound his praise:
 But though past all diffus'd, without a shore,
 His essence; local is his throne (as meet)
 To gather the dispers'd (as standards call,
 The list'd from afar;) to fix a point,
 A central point, collective to his sons,
 Since finite ev'ry nature, but his own.

The nameless he, whose nod is nature's birth;
 And nature's shield the shadow of his hand;
 Her dissolution, his suspended smile!
 The great First Last' pavilion'd high he sits
 In darkness from excessive splendor, born,

NIGHT THE FOURTH.

35

By gods unseen, unless through lustre lost.
His glory, to created glory, bright,
As that to central horrors; he looks down
On all that soars, and spans immensity.

Tho' night unnumber'd worlds unfolds to view,
Boundless creation! what art thou? a beam,
A mere effluvium of his majesty:
And shall an atom of this atom-world
Mutter, in dust and sin, the theme of heaven?
Down to the centre should I send my thought
Thro' beds of glittering ore, and glowing gems,
Their beggar'd blaze wants lustre for my lay;
Goes out in darkness: if, on tow'ring wing,
I send it thro' the boundless vault of stars;
(The stars, tho' rich, what dross their gold to thee,
Great, good, wise, wonderful, eternal Kings!)
If to those conscious stars thy throne around,
Praise ever pouring, and imbibing bliss;
And ask their strain; they want it, more they want,
Poor their abundance, humble their sublime,
Languid their energy, their ardor cold,
Indebted still, their highest rapture burns;
Short of its mark, defective, tho' divine.

Still more—this theme is man's, and man's alone;
Their vast appointments reach it not: they see
On earth a bounty not indulg'd on high;
And downward look for heav'n's superior praise!
First-born of ether, high in fields of light,
View man, to see the glory of your God;
Could angels envy, they had envy'd here;

THE COMPLAINT:

And some did envy; and the rest, though gods,
Yct still gods unredeem'd (there triumphs man,
Tempted to weigh the dust against the skies)
They less would feel, though more adorn, my theme.
They sung creation (for in that they shar'd)
How rose in melody, the child of love!
Creation's great superior, man! is thine;
Thine is redemption; they just gave the key:
'Tis thine to raise, and eternize, the song;
Though human, yet divine; for should not this
Raise man o'er man, and kindle seraphs here?
Redemption! 'twas creation more sublime;
Redemption! 'twas the labour of the skies;
Far more than labour—it was death in heav'n.
A truth so strange! 'twere bold to think it true;
If not far bolder still, to disbelieve.

Here pause, and ponder: was there death in heaven?
What then on earth? on earth, which struck the blow?
Who struck it? Who?—O how is man enlarg'd,
Seen through this medium! how the pigmy tow'rs!
How counterpois'd his origin from dust!
How counterpois'd, to dust his sad return!
How voided his vast distance from the skies?
How near he presses on the seraph's wing!
Which is the seraph? which the born of clay?
How this demonstrates, through the thickest cloud
Of guilt, and clay condens'd, the son of heaven!
The double son; the made, and the re-made!
And shall heaven's double property be lost?
Man's double madness only can destroy.

To man the bleeding cross has promis'd all;
The bleeding cross has sworn eternal grace;
Who gave his life, what grace shall he deny?
O ye! who, from this rock of ages, leap,
Disdainful, plunging headlong in the deep!
What cordial joy, what consolation strong,
Whatever winds arise, or billows roll,
Our int'rest in the master of the storm?
Cling there, and in wreck'd nature's ruins smile;
While vile apostates tremble in a calm.

Man! know thyself. All wisdom centres there:
To none man seems ignoble, but to man;
Angels that grandeur, men o'erlook, admire:
How long shall human nature be their book,
Degen'rate mortal! and unread by thee?
The beam dim reason sheds shews wonders there;
What high contents! illustrious faculties!
But the grand comment, which displays at full
Our human height, scarce sever'd from divine,
By heav'n compos'd, was publish'd on the cross.

Who looks on that, and sees not in himself
An awful stranger, a terrestrial god?
A glorious partner with the Deity
In that high attribute, immortal life?
If a god bleeds, he bleeds not for a worm:
I gaze, and, as I gaze, my mounting soul
Catches strange fire, eternity! at thee;
And drops the world—or rather, more enjoys:
How chang'd the face of nature! how improv'd!
What seem'd a chaos, shines a glorious world,

Or, what a world, an Eden; heighten'd all!
 It is another scene! another self!
 And still another, as time rolls along;
 And that a self far more illustrious still.
 Beyond long ages, yet roll'd up in shades
 Unpierc'd by bold conjecture's keenest ray,
 What evolutions of surprising fate!
 How nature opens, and receives my soul
 In boundless walks of raptur'd thought! where gods
 Encounter, and embrace me! what new births
 Of strange adventure, foreign to the sun,
 Where what now charms, perhaps, what'er exists,
 Old Time, and fair Creation, are forgot!

Is this extravagant? Of man we form
 Extravagant conception, to be just:
 Conception unconfin'd wants wings to reach him;
 Beyond its reach, the Godhead only, more.
 He, the great Father! kindled at one flame
 The world of rationals; one spirit pour'd
 From spirit's awful fountain; pour'd himself
 Thro' all their souls; but not in equal stream,
 Profuse or frugal, of th' inspiring God,
 As his wise plan demanded; and when past
 Their various trials, in their various spheres,
 If they continue rational, as made,
 Resorbs them all into himself again;
 His throne their centre, and his smile their crown.

Why doubt we, then, the glorious truth to sing,
 Tho' yet unsung, as deem'd, perhaps, too bold?
 Angels are men of a superior kind;

Angels are men in lighter habit clad,
High o'er celestial mountains wing'd in flight;
And men are angels, loaded for an hour,
Who wade this miry vale, and climb with pain,
And slipp'ry step, the bottom of the steep.
Angels their failings, mortals have their praise
While here of corps ethereal, such enroll'd,
And summon'd to the glorious standard soon,
Which flames eternal crimson thro' the skies.
Nor are our brothers thoughtless of their kin,
Yet absent; but not absent from their love.
Michael has fought our battles; Raphael sung
Our triumphs; Gabriel on our errands flown,
Sent by the SOVEREIGN: and are these, O man!
Thy friends, thy warm allies? and thou (shame burn
The cheek to cinder!) rival to the brute?
Religion's all. Descending from the skies
To wretched man, the goddess in her left
Holds out this world, and, in her right, the next;
Religion! the sole voucher man is man;
Supporter sole of man above himself;
Ev'n in this night of frailty, change, and death,
She gives the soul a soul that acts a god.
Religion! providence! an after-state;
Here is firm footing, here is solid rock;
This can support us; all is sea besides;
Sinks under us, bestorms, and then devours;
His hand the good man fastens on the skies,
And bids earth roll, nor feels her idle whirl.

As when a wretch, from thick, polluted air,

Darkness, and stench, and suffocating-damps,
 And dungeon-horrors, by kind fate, discharg'd,
 Climbs some fair eminence, where ether pure
 Surrounds him, and Elysian prospects rise,
 His heart exults, his spirits cast their load;
 As if new-born, he triumphs in the change;
 So joys the soul, when from inglorious aims,
 And sordid sweets, from seculence and froth
 Of ties terrestrial, set at large, she mounts
 To reason's region, her own element,
 Breathes hopes immortal, and affects the skies.

Religion! thou the soul of happiness;
 And groaning Calvary, of thee! there shine
 The noblest truths; there strongest motives sting;
 There sacred violence assaults the soul;
 There, nothing but compulsion is forborn.
 Can love allure us? or can terror awe?

He weeps!—the falling drop puts out the sun;
 He sighs!—the sigh earth's deep foundation shakes.
 If, in his love, so terrible, what then
 His wrath inflam'd? his tenderness on fire?
 Like soft, smooth oil, outblazing other fires?
 Can pray'r, can praise avert it?—Thou, my all!
 My theme! my inspiration! and my crown!
 My strength in age! my rise in low estate!
 My soul's ambition, pleasure, wealth!—my world!
 My light in darkness! and my life in death!
 My boast thro' time! bliss thro' eternity!
 Eternity, too short to speak thy praise!
 Or fathom thy profound of love to man!

To man of men the meanest, ev'n to me;
 My sacrifice! my God! what things are these!
 What then art Thou? by what name shall I call
 thee?

Knew I the name devout archangels use,
 Devout archangels should the name enjoy,
 By me unrivall'd; thousands more sublime,
 None half so dear, as that, which, tho' unspoke,
 Still glows at heart: O how Omnipotence
 Is lost in love! thou great PHILANTHROPIST!
 Father of angels! but the friend of man!
 Like Jacob, fondest of the younger born!
 Thou, who didst save him, snatch the smoking brand
 From out the flames, and quench it in thy blood!
 How art thou pleas'd, by bounty to distress!
 To make us groan beneath our gratitude,
 Too big for birth! to favour, and confound;
 To challenge, and to distance all return!
 Of lavish love stupendous heights to soar,
 And leave praise panting in the distant vale!
 Thy right too great defrauds thee of thy due;
 And sacrilegious our sublimest song.
 But since the naked will obtains thy smile,
 Beneath this monument of praise unpaid,
 And future life symphonious to my strain,
 (That noblest hymn to heav'n!) for ever lie
 Intomb'd my fear of death! and ev'ry fear,
 The dread of ev'ry evil, but thy frown.

Whom see I yonder, so demurely smile?
 Laughter a labour, and might break their rest.

Ye Quietists, in homage to the skies!
 Serene! of soft address! who mildly make
 An unobtrusive tender of your hearts,
 Abhorring violence! who halt indeed;
 But, for the blessing, wrestle not with heav'n!
 Think you my song too turbulent? too warm?
 Are passions, then, the pagans of the soul?
 Reason alone baptiz'd? alone ordain'd
 To touch things sacred? Oh for warmer still!
 Guilt chills my zeal, and age benumbs my pow'rs;
 Oh for an humbler heart, and prouder song!
 Thou, my much-injur'd theme! with that soft eye,
 Which melted o'er doom'd Salem, deign to look
 Compassion to the coldness of my breast;
 And pardon to the winter in my strain.

Oh ye cold hearted, frozen, formalists!
 On such a theme, 'tis impious to be calm;
 Passion is reason, transport temper, here.
 Shall heav'n, which gave us ardor, and has shewn
 Her own for man so strongly, not disdain
 What smooth emollients in theology,
 Recumbent virtue's downy doctors preach
 That prose of piety, a lukewarm praise?
 Rise odours sweet from incense uninflam'd?
 Devotion when lukewarm is undevout;
 But when it glows, its heat is struck to heav'n;
 To human hearts her golden harps are strung;
 High heav'n's orchestra chaunts Amen to man.

Hear I, or dream I hear, their distant strain,
 Sweet to the soul, and tasting strong of heav'n;

Soft-wafted on celestial pity's plume,
Thro' the vast spaces of the universe,
To cheer me in this melancholy gloom?
Oh when will death (now stingsless,) like a friend,
Admit me of their choir? Oh when will death,
This mould'ring, old, partition-wall throw down?
Give beings, one in nature, one abode?
Oh death divine, that giv'st us to the skies!
Great future! glorious patron of the past,
And present! when shall I thy shrine adore?
From nature's continent, immensely wide,
Immensely blest, this little isle of life,
This dark, incarcerating colony,
Divides us. Happy day! that breaks our chain:
That manumits; that calls from exile home;
That leads to nature's great metropolis,
And re-admits us, thro' the guardian hand
Of elder brothers, to our Father's throne;
Who hears our advocate, and thro' his wounds
Beholding man, allows that tender name.
'Tis this makes Christian triumph a command;
'Tis this makes joy a duty to the wife;
'Tis impious, in a good man, to be sad.

Seest thou, Lorenzo! where hangs all our hope?
Touch'd by the cross, we live; or, more than die;
That touch which touch'd not angels; more divine
Than that, which touch'd confusion into form,
And darkness into glory, partial touch!
Ineffably pre-eminent regard!
Sacred to man, and sov'reign thro' the whole

Long golden chain of miracles, which hangs
 From heav'n thro' all duration, and supports
 In one illustrious, and amazing plan,
 Thy welfare, nature! and thy God's renown;
 That touch, with charm celestial, heals the soul
 Disca's'd, drives pain from guilt; lights life in death,
 Turns earth to heaven, to heav'nly thrones transforms
 The ghastly ruins of the mould'ring tomb.

Dost ask me when? when He who dy'd returns?
 Returns, how chang'd! Where then the man of woe?
 In glory's terrors all the Godhead burns;
 And all his courts, exhausted by the tide
 Of Deities triumphant in his train,
 Leave a stupendous solitude in heaven;
 Replenish'd soon, replenish'd with increase
 Of pomp, and multitude; a radiant band
 Of angels new; of angels from the tomb.

Is this by fancy thrown remote? and rise
 Dark doubts between the promise, and event?
 I send thee not to volumes for thy cure;
 Read nature; nature is a friend to truth;
 Nature is Christian; preaches to mankind;
 And bids dead matter aid us in our creed.
 Hast thou ne'er seen the comet's flaming flight?
 Th' illustrious stranger passing, terror sheds
 On gazing nations, from his fiery train
 Of length enormous, takes his ample round
 Thro' depths of ether; coasts unnumber'd worlds,
 Of more than solar glory; doubles wide
 Heav'n's mighty cape; and then revisits earth,

From the long travel of a thousand years.
Thus, at the destin'd period, shall return
He, once on earth, who bids the comet blaze :
And, with him, all our triumph o'er the tomb.

Nature is dumb on this important point ;
Or hope precarious in low whisper breathes ;
Faith speaks aloud, distinct ; ev'n adders hear,
But turn, and dart into the dark again.
Faith builds a bridge across the gulph of death,
To break the shock blind nature cannot shun,
And lands thought smoothly on the farther shore.
Death's terror is the mountain faith removes ;
That mountain barrier between man and peace.
'Tis faith disarms destruction ; and absolves
From ev'ry clam'rous charge, the guiltless tomb.

Why disbelieve ? Lorenzo !—' Reason bids,
' All-sacred reason.'—Hold her sacred still ;
Nor shalt thou want a rival in thy flame :
All-sacred reason ! source, and soul, of all
Demanding praise, on earth, or earth above !
My heart is thine : deep in its inmost folds,
Live thou with life ; live dearer of the two.
Wear I the blessed cross, by fortune stamp'd
On passive nature, before thought was born ?
My birth's blind bigot ! fir'd with local zeal !
No ; reason rebaptiz'd me when adult ;
Weigh'd true, and false, in her impartial scale ;
My heart became the convert of my head ;
And made that choice, which once was but my fate.
' On argument alone my faith is built.'

Reason pursu'd is faith ; and, unpursu'd
 Where proof invites, 'tis-reason, then, no more :
 And such our proof, that, or our faith is right ;
 Or reason lies, and heav'n design'd it wrong :
 Absolve we this ? what, then, is blasphemy ?

Fond as we are, and justly fond of faith,
 Reason, we grant, demands our first regard ;
 The mother honour'd, as the daughter dear.
 Reason the root ; fair faith is but the flower :
 The fading flower shall die ; but reason lives-
 Immortal, as her father in the skies.

When faith is virtue, reason makes it so.
 Wrong not the Christian ; think not reason yours ;
 'Tis reason our great master holds so dear ;
 'Tis reason's injur'd rights his wrath resents ;
 'Tis reason's voice obey'd, his glories-crown'd.
 To give lost reason life, he pour'd his own :
 Believe, and shew the reason of a man ;
 Believe, and taste the pleasure of a god ;
 Believe, and look with triumph on the tomb :
 Thro' reason's wounds alone thy faith can die ;
 Which dying, tenfold terror gives to death,
 And dips in venom his twice-mortal sting.

Learn hence what honours, what loud paeans, due
 To those, who push our antidote aside ;
 Those boasted friends to reason, and to man,
 Whose fatal love stabs ev'ry joy, and leaves
 Death's terror heighten'd gnawing on his heart.
 These pompous sons of reason idoliz'd,
 And vilify'd at once ; of reason-dead,

Then deify'd, as monarchs were of old ;
 What conduct plants proud laurels on their brow ?
 While love of truth thro' all their camp resounds,
 They draw pride's curtain o'er the noon-tide ray,
 Spike up their inch of reason, on the point
 Of philosophic wit, call'd argument ;
 And then, exulting in their taper, cry,
 ' Behold the sun ;' and, Indian-like, adore.

Talk they of morals ? O thou bleeding Love !
 Thou maker of new morals to mankind !
 The grand morality is love of thee.
 As wise as Socrates, if such they were,
 (Nor will they 'bate of that sublime renown)
 As wise as Socrates, might justly stand
 The definition of a modern fool.

A CHRISTIAN is the highest stile of man,
 And is there, who the blessed cross wipes off,
 As a foul blot, from his dishonour'd brow ?
 If angels tremble, 'tis at such a sight :
 The wretch they quit, desponding of their charge,
 More struck with grief or wonder, who can tell ?

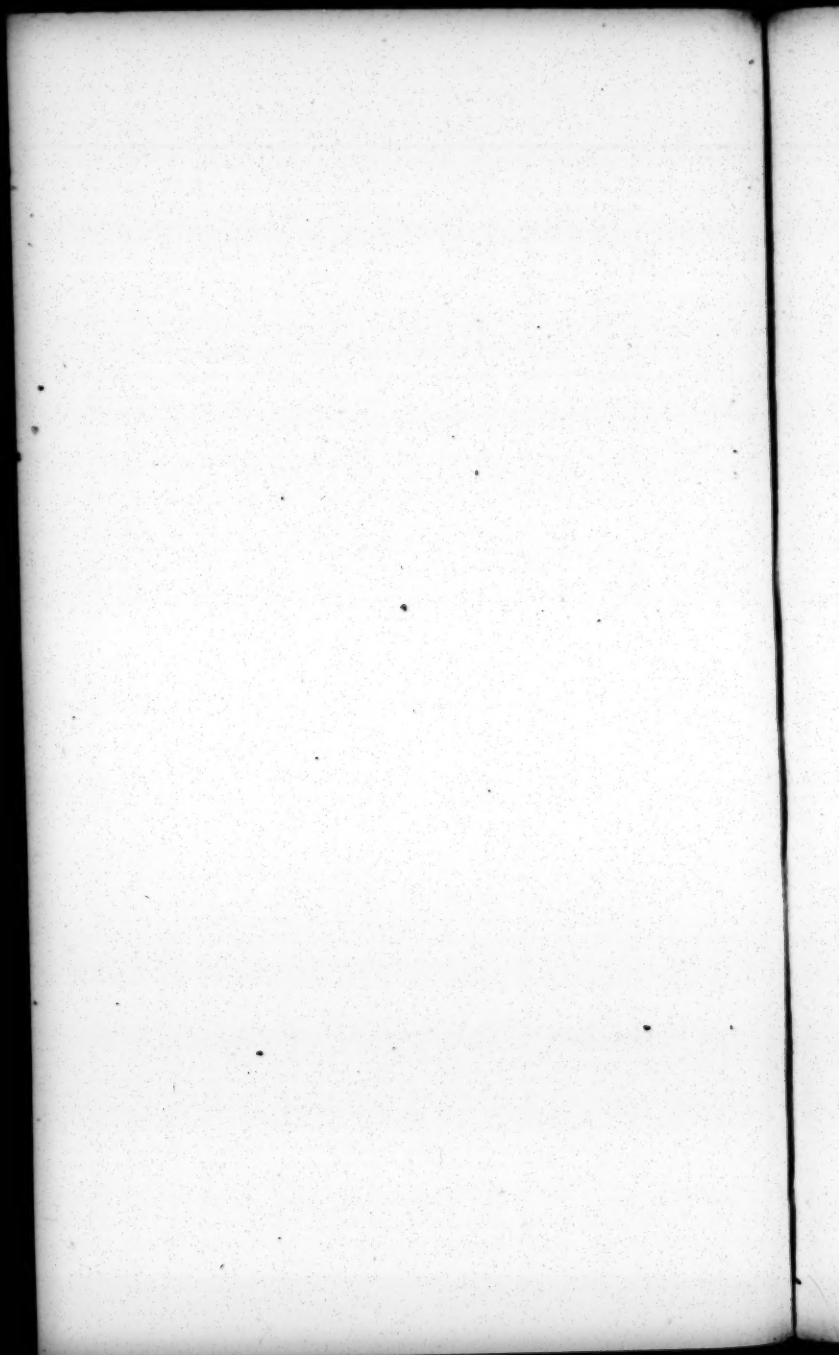
Ye sold to sense ! ye citizens of earth !
 (For such alone the Christian banner fly)
 Know ye how wise your choice, how great your gain ?
 Behold the picture of earth's happiest man :
 ' He calls his wish, it comes ; he sends it back,
 ' And says he call'd another ; that arrives,
 ' Meets the same welcome ; yet he still calls on ;
 ' Till one calls him, who varies not his call,
 ' But holds him fast, in chains of darkness bound,

'Till nature dies, and judgment sets him free;
 'A freedom far less welcome than his chain.'

But grant man happy; grant him happy long;
 Add to life's highest prize her latest hour;
 That hour, so late, is nimble in approach,
 That like a post, comes on in full career:
 How swift the shuttle flies, That weaves thy shroud!
 Where is the fable of thy former years?
 Thrown down the gulph of time; as far from thee
 As they had ne'er been thine; the day in hand,
 Like a bird struggling to get loose, is going;
 Scarce now possess'd, so suddenly 'tis gone;
 And each swift moment fled, is death advanc'd
 By strides as swift: eternity is all;
 And whose eternity? who triumphs there?
 Bathing for ever in the font of bliss!
 For ever basking in the Deity!
 Lorenzo! who?—Thy conscience shall reply.

O give it leave to speak; 'twill speak e'er long
 Thy leave unaskt: Lorenzo! hear it now,
 While useful its advice, its accent mild.
 By the great edict, the divine decree,
 Truth is deposited with man's last hour;
 An honest hour, and faithful to her trust;
 Truth, eldest daughter of the Deity;
 Truth, of his council, when he made the worlds;
 Nor less, when he shall judge the worlds he made;
 Tho' silent long, and sleeping ne'er so sound,
 Smother'd with errors, and oppress'd with toys,
 That heav'n-commission'd hour no sooner calls,

But from her cavern in the soul's abyss,
Like him they fable under Ætna whelm'd,
The goddess bursts in thunder, and in flame;
Loudly convinces, and severely pains.
Dark daemons I discharge, and hydra-stings;
The keen vibration of bright truth—is hell :
Just definition! tho' by schools untaught.
Ye deaf to truth ! peruse this parson'd page,
And trust, for once, a prophet, and a priest ;
' Men may live fools, but fools they cannot die.'



NIGHT THE FIFTH.

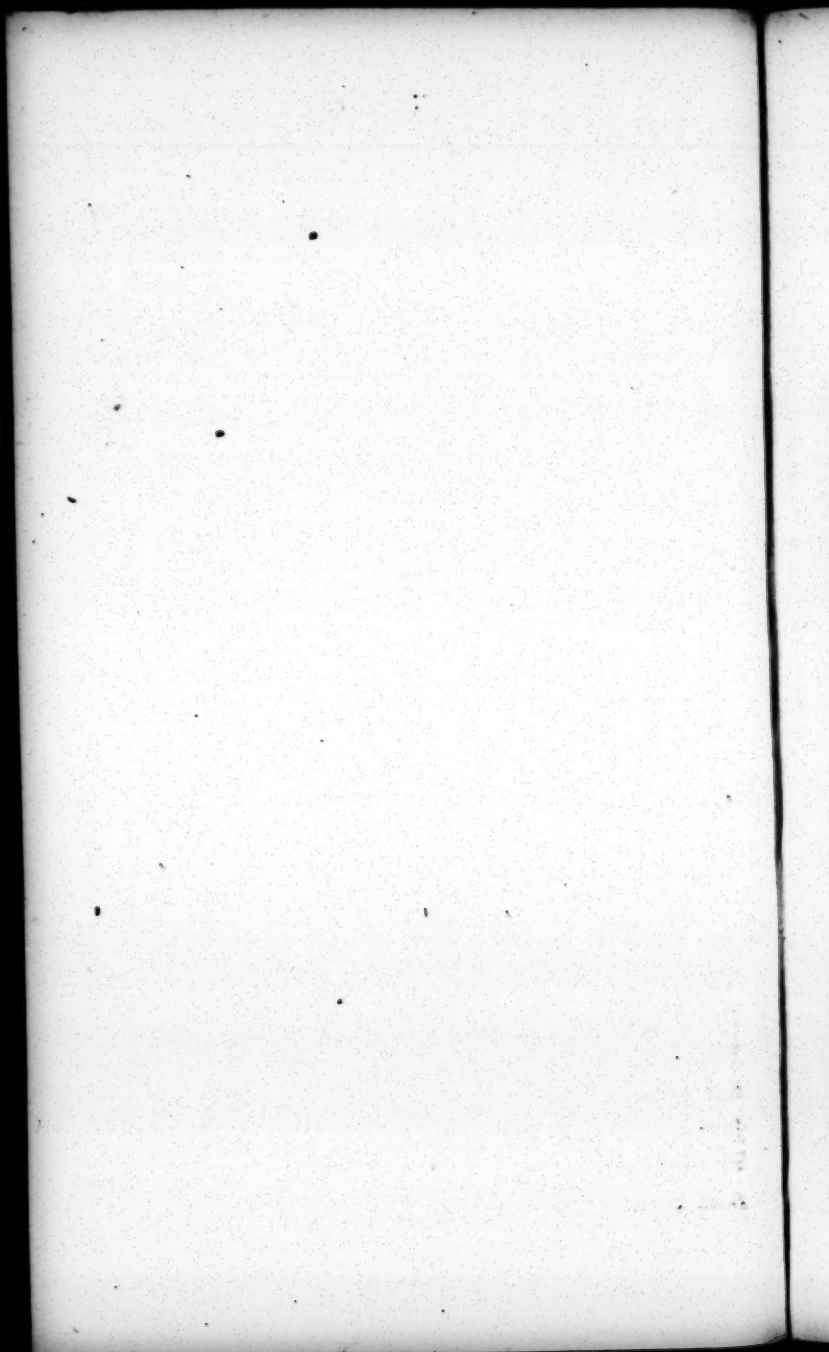
T H E

R E L A P S E.

Humbly inscribed

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

The EARL of LITCHFIELD.



THE
COMPLAINT.

NIGHT THE FIFTH.

LORENZO! to recriminate is just.
Fondness for fame: is avarice of air.
I grant the man is vain who writes for praise.
Praise no man e'er deserv'd, who sought no more.
As just thy second charge I grant the muse
Has often blush'd at her degen'rate sons,
Retain'd by sense to plead her filthy cause;
To raise the low, to magnify the mean,
And subtilize the gross into refin'd:
As if to magic numbers pow'rful charm
'Twas given, to make a civet of their song
Obscene, and sweeten ordure to perfume.
Wit, a true Pagan, deifies the brute,
And lifts our swine-enjoyments from the mire.

The fact notorious, nor obscure the cause
We wear the chains of pleasure, and of pride.
These share the man: and these distract him too;
Draw different ways and clash in their commands.
Pride, like an eagle builds among the stars;
But pleasure lark-like nests upon the ground.
Joys shar'd by brute creation, pride relents;
Pleasure embraces: man would both enjoy.
And both at once; a point how hard to gain!

But, what can't wit, when stung by strong desire?

Wit dares attempt this arduous enterprize.
 Since joys of sense can't rise to reason's taste;
 In subtle sophistry's laborious forge,
 Wit hammers out a reason new, that sloops
 To sordid scenes, and meets them with applause.
 Wit calls the Graces the chaste zone to loose;
 Nor less than a plump god to fill the bowl:
 A thousand phantoms, and a thousand spells,
 A thousand opiates scatters, to delude,
 To fascinate, inebriate, lay asleep,
 And the fool'd mind of man delightfully confound.
 Thus that which shock'd the judgment, shocks no more;
 That which gave pride offence, no more offends.
 Pleasure and pride, by nature mortal foes,
 At war eternal, which in man shall reign,
 By wit's address, patch up a fatal peace,
 And hand in hand lead on the rank debauch,
 From rank, refin'd to delicate and gay.
 Art, cursed art! wipes off the indebted blush
 From nature's cheek, and bronzes ev'ry shame.
 Man smiles in ruin, glories in his guilt,
 And infamous stands candidate for praise.

All writ by man in favour of the soul,
 These sensual ethics far, in bulk, transcend.
 The flow'rs of eloquence, profusely pour'd
 O'er spotted vice, fill half the letter'd world.
 Can pow'rs of genius exorcise their page,
 And consecrate enormities with song?

But let not these inexpressible strains

Condemn the muse that knows her dignity ;
Not meanly stops at time, but holds the world .
As 'tis, in nature's ample field, a point,
A point in her esteem ; from whence to start,
And run the round of universal space,
To visit being universal there,
And being's source, that utmost flight of mind !
Yet, spite of this so vast circumference,
Well knows, but what is moral, nought is great.
Sing Syrens only ? do not angels sing ?
There is in poesy a decent pride,
Which well becomes her when she speaks to prose,
Her younger sister ; haply, not more wise.

Think'st thou, Lorenzo! to find pastimes here ?
No guilty passion blown into a flame,
No foible flatter'd, dignity disgrac'd,
No fairy field of fiction, all on flow'r,
No rainbow colours, here, or silken tale :
But solemn counsels, images of awe,
Truth, which eternity lets fall on man
With double weight, thro' these revolving spheres,
This death-deep silence; and incumbent shade :
Thoughts, such as shall revisit your last hour ;
Visit uncall'd, and live when life expires ;
And thy dark pencil, midnight! darker still
In melancholy dipt, embrowns the whole.

Yet this, ev'n this, my laughter loving friends !
Lorenzo! and thy brothers of the smile !
If, what imports you most, can most engage,
Shall next your ears and chain you to my song.

Or if you fail me, know, the wise shall taste
 The truths I sing : the truths I sing shall feel;
 And, feeling, give assent ; and their assent
 Is ample recompence ; is more than praise.
 But chiefly thine, O LITCHFIELD ! nor mistake ;
 Think not un-introduc'd I force my way ;
 Narcissa, not unknown, not unall'y'd,
 By virtue, or by blood, illustrious youth !
 To thee, from blooming amaranthine bow'rs,
 Where all the language, harmony descends
 Uncall'd, and asks admittance for the Muse :
 A Muse that will not pain thee with thy praise ;
 Thy praise she drops, by nobler still inspir'd.

O Thou ! blest Spirit ! whether the supreme,
 Great antemundane Father ! in whose breast
 Embryo creation, unborn being, dwelt,
 And all its various revolutions roll'd
 Present, tho' future, prior to themselves ;
 Whose breath can blow it into nought again ;
 Or, from his throne some delegated pow'r,
 Who, studious of our peace, dost turn the thought
 From vain and vile, to solid and sublime !
 Unseen thou lead'st me to delicious draughts
 Of inspiration, from a purer stream,
 And fuller of the God, than that which burst
 From fam'd Castalia : nor is yet allay'd
 My sacred thirst ; tho' long my soul has rang'd
 Thro' pleasing paths of moral and divine,
 By thee sustain'd, and lighted by the STARS.

By them best lighted are the paths of thought ;

Nights are their days, their most illumin'd hours.
By day, the soul, o'erborn by life's career,
Stunn'd by the din, and giddy with the glare,
Reels far from reason, jostled by the throng.
By day the soul is passive, all her thoughts
Impos'd, precarious, broken, ere mature.
By night from objects free, from passion cool,
Thoughts uncontroul'd, and unimpres'd, the births
Of pure election, arbitrary range,
Not to the limits of one world confin'd;
But from ethereal travels light on earth,
As voyagers drop anchor, for repose.

Let Indians, and the gay, like Indians, fond
Of feather'd sopperies, the sun adore:
Darkness has more divinity for me;
It strikes thought inward; it drives back the soul
To settle on herself, our point supremel
There lies our theatre; there sits our judge.
Darkness the curtain drops o'er life's dull scene:
'Tis the kind hand of providence stretcht out
'Twixt man and vanity; 'tis reason's reign,
And virtue's too; these tutelary shades
Are man's asylum from the tainted throng.
Night is the good man's friend, and guardian too;
It needs rescues virtue, than inspires.

Virtue, for ever frail, as fair, below,
Her tender nature suffers in the croud,
Nor touches on the world, without a stain:
The world's infectious; few bring back at eve,
Immaculate the manners of the morn.

Something we thought, is blotted, we resolv'd;
 Is shaken; we renounc'd, returns again.
 Each salutation may slide in a sin
 Unthought before, or fix a former flaw.
 Nor is it strange: light, motion, concourse, noise,
 All, scatter us abroad; thought outward bound.
 Neglectful of our home affairs, flies off
 In fume and dissipation, quits her charge,
 And leaves the breast unguarded to the foe.

Present example gets within our guard,
 And acts with double force, by few repell'd.
 Ambition fires ambition; love of gain
 Strikes like a pestilence, from breast to breast;
 Riot, pride, perfidy, blue vapours breathe;
 And inhumanity is caught from man,
 From smiling man. A slight, a single glance,
 And shot at random, often has brought home
 A sudden fever, to the throbbing heart;
 Of envy, rancour, or impure desire.
 We see, we hear, with peril: safety dwells
 Remote from multitude; the world's a school
 Of wrong, and what proficients swarm around!
 We must or imitate, or disapprove;
 Must list as their accomplices, or foes;
 That stains our innocence; this wounds our peace.
 From nature's birth, hence, wisdom has been smit
 With sweet recess, and languish'd for the shade.

This sacred shade, and solitude, what is it?
 'Tis the felt presence of the deity.
 Few are the faults we flatter when alone.

Vice sinks in her allurements, is unguilt,
And looks, like other objects, black by night.
By night an atheist half-believes a God.

Night is fair virtue's immemorial friend ;
The conscious moon, thro' ev'ry distant age,
Has held a lamp to wisdom, and let fall,
On contemplation's eye, her purging ray.
The fam'd Athenian, he who woo'd from heav'n
Philosophy the fair, to dwell with men,
And form their manners, not inflame their pride,
While o'er his head, as fearful to molest
His lab'ring mind, the stars in silence slide,
And seem all gazing on their future guest,
See him solliciting his ardent suit
In private audience : all the live-long night,
Rigid in thought, and motionless, he stands ;
Nor quits his theme, or posture, till the sun
(Rude drunkard rising rosy from the main !)
Disturbs his noble intellectual beam,
And gives him to the tumult of the world.
Hail, precious moments ! stol'n from the black waste
Of murder'd time ! auspicious midnight ! hail !
The world excluded, ev'ry passion hush'd,
And open'd a calm intercourse with heav'n,
Here the soul sits in council : ponders past,
Predestines future action ; sees, not feels,
Tumultuous life, and reasons with the storm ;
All her lies answers, and thinks down her charms.

What awful joy ! what mental liberty !
I am not pent in darkness ; rather say

(If not too bold) in darkness I'm embow'rd.
 Delightful gloom! the clust'ring thoughts around
 Spontaneous rise, and blossom in the shade;
 But droop by day, and sicken in the sun.
 Thought borrows light elsewhere; from that first fire,
 Fountain of animation! whence descends
 URANIA, my celestial guest! who deigns
 Nightly to visit me, so mean; and now
 Conscious how needful discipline to man,
 From pleasing dalliance with the charms of night
 My wand'ring thought recalls, to what excites
 Far other beat of heart; Narcissa's tomb!

Or is it feeble nature calls me back,
 And breaks my spirit into grief again?
 Is it a Stygian vapour in my blood?
 A cold, slow puddle, creeping thro' my veins?
 Or is it thus with all men?—Thus with all.
 What are we? how unequal! now we soar,
 And now we sink; to be the same, transcends
 Our present prowess Dearly pays the soul
 For lodging ill, too dearly rents her clay.
 Reason, a baffled counsellor! but adds
 The blush of weakness, to the bane of woe.
 The noblest spirit fighting her hard fate,
 In this damp, dusky region, charg'd with storms,
 But feebly flutters, yet untaught to fly;
 Or, flying, short her flight, and sure her fall.
 Our utmost strength, when down, to rise again;
 And not to yield, tho' beaten, all our praise.

'Tis vain to seek in men for more than man.

Though proud in promise, big in previous thought;
Experience damps our triumph. I, who late
Emerging from the shadows of the grave,
Where grief detain'd me pris'ner, mounting high,
Threw wide the gates of everlasting day,
And call'd mankind to glory, shook off pain,
Mortality shook off, in ether pure,
And struck the stars; now feel my spirits fail;
They drop me from the zenith; down I rush,
Like him whom fable sleg'd with waxen wings,
In sorrow drown'd—but not, in sorrow, lost.
How wretched is the man, who never mourn'd!
I dive for precious pearl, in sorrow's stream:
Not so the thoughtless man that only grieves;
Takes all the torment, and rejects the gain,
(Inestimable gain!) and gives heav'n leave
To make him but more wretched, not more wise.

If wisdom is our lesson (and what else
Ennobles man? what else have angels learnt?)
Grief! more proficient in thy school are made,
Than genius, or proud learning, e'er could boast.
Voracious learning, often over-fed,
Digests not into sense her motely meal.
This book-case, with dark booty almost burst,
This forager on others wisdom, leaves
Her native farm, her reason, quite untill'd.
With mixt manure she surfeits the rank soil,
Dung'd, but not dress'd; and rich to beggary.
A pomp untameable of weeds prevails.
Her servant's wealth incumber'd wisdom mourns.

'And what says genius? 'Let the dull be wise.'
 Genius, too hard for right, can prove it wrong;
 And loves to boast, where blush men less inspir'd.
 It pleads exemption from the laws of sense;
 Considers reason as a leveller;
 And scorns to share a blessing with the croud.
 That wise it could be, thinks an ample claim
 To glory, and to pleasure gives the rest.
 Crassus but sleeps, Ardelio is undone.
 Wisdom less shudders at a fool, than wit.

But wisdom smiles, when humbled mortals weep.
 When sorrow wounds the breast, as ploughs the glebe,
 And hearts obdurate feel her softening shower;
 Her seed celestial, then, glad wisdom sows;
 Her golden harvest triumphs in the soil.
 If so, Narcissa! welcome my relapse;
 I'll raise a tax on my calamity,
 And reap rich compensation from my pain.
 I'll range the plenteous intellectual field;
 And gather every thought of sov'reign power
 To chase the moral maladies of man;
 Thoughts, which may bear transplanting to the skies,
 Tho' natives of this coarse penurious soil;
 Nor wholly wither there, where seraphs sing,
 Refin'd, exalted, not annull'd, in heav'n.
 Reason, the sun that gives them birth, the same
 In either clime, though more illustrious there.
 These choicely cull'd, and elegantly rang'd,
 Shall form a garland for Narcissa's tomb;
 And, peradventure, of no fading flow'rs.

Say, on what themes shall puzzled choice descend?

- Th' importance of contemplating the tomb ;
- Why men decline it ; suicide's foul birth ;
- The various kinds of grief ; the faults of age ;
- And death's dread character—invite my song."

And, first th' importance of our end survey'd.
Friends counsel quick dismissal of our grief:
Mistaken kindness ! our hearts heal too soon.
Are they more kind than he, who struck the blow ?
Who bid it do his errand in our hearts,
And banish peace, till nobler guests arrive,
And bring it back, a true, and endless peace ?
Calamities are friends : as glaring day
Of these unnumber'd lustres robs our sight ;
Prosperity puts out unnumber'd thoughts
Of import high, and light divine, to man.

The man how blest, who, sick of gaudy scenes,
(Scenes apt to thrust between us and ourselves !)
Is led by choice to take his fav'rite walk,
Beneath death's gloomy, silent, cypress shades,
Unpierc'd by vanity's fantastic ray ;
To read his monuments, to weigh his dust,
Visit his vaults, and dwell among the tombs !
Lorenzo ! read with me Narcissa's stone ;
(Narcissa was my fav'rite) let us read
Her moral stone ; few doctors preach so well ;
Few orators so tenderly can touch
The feeling heart. What pathos in the date !
Apt words can strike ; and yet in them we see
Faint images of what we, here, enjoy.

What cause have we to build on length of life?
Temptations seize, when fear is laid asleep;
And ill foreboded is our strongest guard.
See from her tomb, as from an humble shrine,
Truth, radiant goddess! sallies on my soul,
And puts delusion's dusky train to flight;
Dispels the mist our sultry passions raise,
From objects low, terrestrial and obscene;
And shews the real estimate of things;
Which no man, unafflicted, ever saw;
Pulls off the veil from virtue's rising charms;
Detects temptation in a thousand lyes.
Truth bids me look on men, as autumn leaves,
And all they bleed for, as the summer's dust,
Driv'n by the whirlwind: lighted by her beams,
I widen my horizon, gain new powers,
See things invisible, feel things remote,
Am present with futurities; think nought
To man so foreign, as the joys possess;
Nought so much his, as those beyond the grave.

No folly keeps its colour in her sight;
Pale worldly wisdom loses all her charms;
In pompous promise from her schemes profound,
If future fate she plans, 'tis all in leaves,
Like Sybil, unsubstantial, fleeting bliss!
At the first blast it vanishes in air.
Not so, celestial! Wouldst thou know, Lorenzo!
How differ worldly wisdom and divine?
Just as the waning, and the waxing moon.
More empty worldly wisdom ev'ry day;

And ev'ry day more fair her rival shines.
When later, there's less time to play the fool.
Soon our whole term for wisdom is expir'd,
(Thou know'st she calls no council in the grave)
And everlasting fool is writ in fire,
Or real wisdom wafts us to the skies.

As worldly schemes resemble Sybil's leaves,
The good man's days to Sybil's books compare,
(In ancient story read, thou know'st the tale)
In price still rising as in number less,
Inestimable quite his final hour.
For that who thrones can offer, offer thrones;
Insolvent worlds the purchase cannot pay.
' O let me die his death! all nature cries.
' Then live his life'——All nature falters there.
Our great physician daily to consult,
To commune with the grave, our only cure. [yet,
What grave prescribes the best?—A friend's; and
From a friend's grave, how soon we disengage!
Ev'n to the dearest, as his marble cold.
Why are friends ravish'd from us? 'tis to bind,
By soft affections ties, on human hearts,
The thought of death, which reason, too supine,
Or misemploy'd, so rarely fastens there.
Nor reason, nor affection, no, nor both
Combin'd, can break the witchcrafts of the world.
Behold th' inexorable hour at hand!
Behold th' inexorable hour forgot!
And to forget it, the chief aim of life,
Though well to ponder it, is life's chief end.

Is death, that ever threat'ning ne'er remote,
That all-important, and that only sure,
(Come when he will) an unexpected guest ?
Nay, though invited by the loudest calls
Of blind imprudence, unexpected still ?
Though num'rous messengers are sent before
To warn his great arrival. What the cause,
The wond'rous cause, of this mysterious ill ?
All heav'n looks down astonish'd at the sight.

Is it that life has sown her joys so thick,
We can't thrust in a single care between ?
Is it, that life has such a swarm of cares,
The thought of death can't enter for the throng ?
Is it, that time steals on with downy feet,
Nor wakes indulgence from the golden dream ?
To-day is so like yesterday, it cheats ;
We take the lying sister for the same.
Life glides away, Lorenzo ! like a brook ;
For ever changing, unperceiv'd the change.
In the same brook none ever bath'd him twice :
To the same life none ever twice awoke.
We call the brook the same : the same we think
Our life, though still more rapid in its flow ;
Nor mark the much irrevocably laps'd,
And mingled with the sea. Or shall we say,
(Retaining still the brook to bear us on)
That life is like a vessel on the stream ?
In life embark'd, we smoothly down the tide
Of time descend, but not on time intent ;
Amus'd, unconscious of the gliding wave ;

Till on a sudden we perceive a shock ;
We start, awake, look out ; what see we there ?
Our brittle bark is burst on Charon's shore

Is this the cause death flies all human thought ?
Or is it judgment by the will struck blind,
That domineering mistress of the soul !
Like him so strong by Dalilah the fair ?
Or is it fear turns startled reason back,
From looking down a precipice so steep ?
'Tis dreadful ; and the dread is wisely plac'd,
By nature conscious of the make of man.
A dreadful friend it is, a terror kind,
A flaming sword to guard the tree of life.
By that unaw'd, in life's most smiling hour,
The good man would repine ; would suffer joys,
And burn impatient for his promis'd skies.
The bad, on each punctilious pique of pride,
Or gloom of humour, would give rage the rein,
Bound o'er the barrier, rush into the dark,
And mar the scenes of providence below.

What groan was that, Lorenzo ?—furies ! rise ;
And drown, in your less execrable yell,
Britannia's shame. There took her gloomy flight,
On wing impetuous, a black sullen soul,
Blasted from hell, with horrid lust of death.
Thy friend, the brave, the gallant Altamont,
So call'd, so thought—and then he fled the field,
Less base the fear of death, than fear of life.
O Britain, infamous for suicide !
An island in thy manners ! far disjoin'd

From the whole world of rationals beside!
In ambient waves plunge thy polluted head,
Wash the dire stain, nor shock the continent.

But thou be shock'd, while I detect the cause
Of self-assault, expose the monster's birth,
And bid abhorrence hiss it round the world.
Blame not thy clime, nor chide the distant sun;
The sun is innocent, thy clime absolv'd;
Immoral climes kind nature never made.
The cause I sing, in Eden might prevail,
And proves, it is thy-folly, not thy fate.

The soul of man (let man in homage bow,
Who names his soul) a native of the skies!
High-born, and free, her freedom should maintain,
Unfold, unmortgag'd for earth's little bribes.
Th' illustrious stranger, in this foreign land,
Like strangers, jealous of her dignity,
Studious of home, and ardent to return,
Of earth suspicious, earth's enchanted cup
With cool reserve light touching, should indulge,
On immortality, her godlike taste; [there.
There take large draughts; make her chief banquet

But some reject this sustenance divine;
To beggarly vile appetites descend;
Ask alms of earth, for guests that came from heav'n;
Sink into slaves; and sell, for present hire,
Their rich reversion, and (what shares its fate)
Their native freedom, to the prince who sways
This nether world. And when his payments fail,
When his soul basket gorges them no more,

Or their pall'd palates loath the basket full ;
Are instantly, with wild demoniac rage,
For breaking all the chains of providence,
And bursting their confinement ; though fast barr'd
By laws divine and human ; guarded strong
With horrors doubled to defend the pass,
The blackest, nature, or dire guilt, can raise ;
And moated round, with fathomless destruction,
Sure to receive, and overwhelm them in their fall.

Such, Britons ! is the cause, to you unknown,
Or worse, o'erlook'd ; o'erlook'd by magistrates,
Thus criminals themselves. I grant the deed
Is madness ; but the madness of the heart.
And what is that ? our utmost bound of guilt.
A sensual, unreflecting life, is big
With monstrous births, and suicide, to crown
The black infernal brood. The bold to break
Heav'n's law supreme, and desperately rush
Through sacred nature's murder, on their own,
Because they never think of death, they die.

'Tis equally man's duty, glory, gain,
At once to shun, and meditate, his end.
When by the bed of languishment we sit,
(The seat of wisdom ! if our choice, not fate)
Or, o'er our dying friends, in anguish hang,
Wipe the cold dew, or stay the sinking head,
Number their moments, and, in every clock,
Start at the voice of an eternity ;
See the dim lamp of life just feebly lift
An agonizing beam, at us to gaze,

Then sink again, and quiver into death,
 That most pathetic herald of our own;
 How read we such sad scenes? As sent to man
 In perfect vengeance? No; in pity sent,
 To melt him down like wax, and then impress,
 Indelible, death's image on his heart;
 Bleeding for others, trembling for himself.
 We bleed, we tremble, we forget, we smile.
 The mind turns fool, before the cheek is dry.
 Our quick-returning folly cancels all;
 As the tide rushing raises what is writ
 In yielding sands, and smooths the letter'd shore.

Lorenzo! hast thou ever weigh'd a sigh?
 Or study'd the philosophy of tears?
 (A science, yet, unlectur'd in our schools!)
 Hast thou descended deep into the breast,
 And seen their source! if not, descend with me,
 And trace these briny riv'lets to their springs.

Our fun'ral tears, from different causes rise,
 As if from separate cisterns in the soul,
 Of various kinds, they flow. From tender hearts,
 By soft contagion call'd, some burst at once,
 And stream obsequious to the leading eye.
 Some ask more time, by curious art distill'd.
 Some hearts in secret hard, unapt to melt,
 Struck by the magic of the public eye,
 Like Moses' smitten rock, gush out amain.
 Some weep to share the fame of the deceas'd,
 So high in merit, and to them so dear.
 They dwell on praises, which they think they share;

And thus, without a blush, commend themselves.
Some mourn; in proof that something they could love;
They weep not to relieve their grief, but shew.
Some weep in perfect justice to the dead,
As conscious all their love is in arrear.
Some mischievously weep, not unappris'd,
Tears, sometimes, aid the conquest of an eye.
With what address the soft Ephesians draw
Their sable net-work o'er entangled hearts?
As seen through crystal, how their roses glow,
While liquid pearl runs trickling down their cheek?
Of her's not prouder Egypt's wanton queen,
Carousing gems, herself dissolv'd in love.
Some weep at death, abstracted from the dead,
And celebrate, like Charles, their own decease.
By kind construction some are deem'd to weep,
Because a decent veil conceals their joy.
Some weep in earnest, and yet weep in vain;
As deep in indiscretion, as in woe.
Passion, blind passion! impotently pours
Tears, that deserve more tears; while reason sleeps;
Or gazes, like an idcot, unconcern'd;
Nor comprehends the meaning of the storm;
Knows not it speaks to her, and her alone.
Irrationals all sorrow are beneath,
That noble gift! that privilege of man!
From sorrow's pang, the birth of endless joy.
But these are barren of that birth divine:
They weep impetuous, as the summer-storm,
And full as short! the cruel grief soon tam'd,

They make a pastime of the stinging tale;
Far as the deep-resounding knell, they spread
The dreadful news, and hardly feel it more.
No grain of wisdom pays them for their woe.

Half-round the globe the tears pumpt up by death
Are spent in wat'ring vanities of life;
In making folly flourish still more fair.
When the sick soul, her wonted stay withdrawn,
Reclines on earth, and sorrows in the dust;
Instead of learning, there, her true support,
Though there thrown down her true support to learn,
Without heav'n's aid impatient to be blest,
She crawls to the next shrub, or bramble vile,
Though from the stately cedar's arms she fell;
With stale, forsworn embraces, clings anew,
The stranger weds, and blossoms, as before,
In all the fruitless fopperies of life:
Presents her weed, well-fancy'd, at the ball,
And raffles for the death's head on the ring.

So wept Aurelia, till the destin'd youth
Stept in, with his receipt for making smiles,
And blanching fables into bridal bloom.
So wept Lorenzo fair Clarissa's fate;
Who gave that angel boy, on whom he doats;
And dy'd to give him, orphan'd in his birth!
Not such, Narcissa, my distress for thee.
I'll make an altar of thy sacred tomb,
To sacrifice to wisdom.——What wast thou?
'Young, gay, and fortunate!' Each yields a theme.
I'll dwell on each, to shun thought more severe;

(Heaven knows I labour with severer still !)
I'll dwell on each, and quite exhaust thy death.
A soul without reflection, like a pile
Without inhabitant, to ruin runs.

And, first, thy youth What says it to grey hairs ?
Narcissa, I'm become thy pupil now——
Early, bright, transient, chaste, as morning dew.
She sparkled, was exhal'd, and went to heaven.
Time on this head has snow'd ; yet still 'tis borne
Aloft ; nor thinks but on another's grave.
Cover'd with shame I speak it, age severe
Old worn-out vice sets down for virtue fair ;
With graceless gravity, chastising youth,
That youth chastis'd surpassing in a fault,
Father of all, forgetfulness of death :
As if, like objects pressing on the sight,
Death had advanc'd too near us to be seen :
Or, that life's loan time ripen'd into right :
And men might plead prescription from the grave ;
Deathless, from repetition of reprieve.

Deathless ? far from it ! such are dead already ;
Their hearts are bury'd and the world their grave.
Tell me, some god ! my guardian angel ! tell,
What thus infatuates ? what enchantment plants
The phantom of an age 'twixt us and death
Already at the door ? He knocks we hear him,
And yet we will not hear. What mail defends
Our untouch'd hearts ? what miracle turns off
The pointed thought, which from a thousand quivers
Is daily darted, and is daily shunn'd ?

We stand, as in a battle, throngs on throngs
Around us falling; wounded oft ourselves;
Tho' bleeding with our wounds, immortal still!
We see time's furrows on another's brow,
And death intrench'd, preparing his assault;
How few themselves, in that just mirror, see!
Or, seeing, draw their inference as strong!
Their death is certain; doubtful here: he must,
And soon; we may, within an age, expire.
Tho' grey our heads, our thoughts and aims are green;
Like damag'd clocks, whose hand and bell dissent;
Folly sings six, while nature points at twelve.

Absurd longevity! more, more, it cries:
More life, more wealth, more trash of every kind.
And wherefore mad for more, when relish fails?
Object and appetite must club for joy;
Shall folly labour hard to mend the bow,
Baubles, I mean, that strike us from without,
While nature is relaxing ev'ry string?
Ask thought for joy; grow rich and hoard within.
Think you the soul, when this life's rattles cease,
Has nothing of more manly to succeed?
Contract the taste immortal; learn ev'n now
To relish what alone subsists hereafter.
Divine, or none, henceforth your joys for ever.
Of age the glory is, to wish to die.
That wish is praise and promise; it applauds
Past life, and promises our future bliss.
What weakness see not children in their fires?
Grand-climacterical absurdities!

Grey-hair'd authority, to faults of youth,
How shocking! It makes folly thrice a fool;
And our first childhood might our last despise.
Peace and esteem is all that age can hope.
Nothing but wisdom gives the first; the last,
Nothing, but the repute of being wise.
Folly bars both; our age is quite undone.

What folly can be rarer? Like our shadows,
Our wishes lengthen, as our sun declines.
No wish should loiter, then, this side the grave.
Our hearts should leave the world, before the knell
Calls for our carcasses to mend the soil.
Enough to live in tempest, die in port.
Age should fly concourse, cover in retreat
Defects of judgment; and the will subdue;
Walk thoughtful on the silent, solemn shore
Of that vast ocean it must sail so soon;
And put good works on board; and wait the wind
That shortly blows us into worlds unknown.
In unconsider'd too, a dreadful scene!

All should be prophets to themselves; foresee
Their future fate; their future fate foretaste;
This art would waste the bitterness of death.
The thought of death alone, the fear destroys.
A disaffection to that precious thought
Is more than midnight darkness on the soul,
Which sleeps beneath it, on a precipice,
Pass'd off by the first blast; and lost for ever.

Dost ask, Lorenzo, why so warmly prest,
By repetition hammer'd on thine ear,

The thought of death ? that thought is the machine,
That grand machine ! that heaves us from the dust,
And rears us into men. That thought ply'd home
Will soon reduce the ghastly precipice
O'er hanging hell, will soften the descent,
And gently slope our passage to the grave ;
How warmly to be wish'd ! What heart of flesh
Would trifle with tremendous ? dare extremes ?
Yawn o'er the fate of infinite ? What hand,
Beyond the blackest brand of censure bold,
(To speak a language too well known to thee)
Would at a moment give its all to chance,
And stamp the die for an eternity ?

Aid me, Narissa ! aid me to keep pace
With destiny ; and ere her scissars cut
My thread of life, to break this tougher thread
Of moral death, that ties me to the world.
Sting thou my slumb'ring reason to send forth
A thought of observation on the foe ;
To sally ; and survey the rapid march
Of his ten thousand messengers to man ;
Who, Jehu-like, behind him turns them all
All accident apart, by nature sign'd,
My warrant is gone out, tho' dormant yet ;
Perhaps behind one moment lurks my fate.

Must I then forward only look for death ?
Backward I turn mine eye, and find him there.
Man is a self survivor ev'ry year.
Man, like a stream, is in perpetual flow.
Death's a destroyer of quotidian prey.

My youth, my noon-tide, his; my yesterday;
 The bold invader shares the present hour.
 Each moment on the former shuts the grave.
 While man is growing, life is in decrease;
 And cradles rock us nearer to the tomb.
 Our birth is nothing but our death begun;
 As tapers waste, that instant they take fire.

Shall we then fear, lest that should come to pass,
 Which comes to pass each moment of our lives?
 If fear we must, let that death turn us pale,
 Which murders strength and ardor; what remains,
 Should rather call on death, than dread his call.
 Ye partners of my fault, and my decline!
 Thoughtless of death, but when your neighbour's knell
 (Rude visitant!) knocks hard at your dust senile,
 And with its thunder scarce obtains your ear!
 Be death your theme in every place and hour;
 Nor longer want, ye monumental fires,
 A brother tomb to tell you you shall die.
 That death you dread (so great is nature's skill!)
 Know you shall court, before you shall enjoy

But you are learn'd; in volumes deep you sit;
 In wisdom, shallow; pompous ignorance!
 Would you be still more learned than the learn'd?
 Learn well to know how much need not be known.
 And what that knowledge, which impairs your sense.
 Our needful knowledge, like our needful hand,
 Unhedg'd, lies open in life's common field;
 And bids all welcome to the vital fount.
 You scorn what lies before you in the page

Of nature and experience, moral truth;
 Of indispensable, eternal fruit;
 Fruit, on which mortals feeding, turn to gods:
 And dive in science for distinguish'd names,
 Dishonest fomentation of your pride;
 Sinking in virtue, as you rise in fame.
 Your learning, like the lunar beam, affords
 Light, but not heat; it leaves you undervout,
 Frozen at heart, while speculation shines.
 Awake, ye curious indagators! fond
 Of knowing all, but what avails you, known.
 If you would learn death's character, attend.
 All casts of conduct, all degrees of health,
 All dies of fortune, and all dates of age,
 Together shook in his impartial urn,
 Come forth at random: or if choice is made,
 The choice is quite sarcastic, and insults
 All bold conjecture, and fond hopes of man.
 What countless multitudes, not only leave,
 But deeply disappoint us, by their deaths!
 Tho' great our sorrow, greater our surprize

Like other tyrants, death delights to smite,
 What, smitten, most proclaims the pride of power,
 And arbitrary nod His joy supreme,
 To bid the wretch survive the fortunate;
 The feeble wrap th' athletic in his shroud;
 And weeping fathers build their childrens tomb:
 Me thine, Narcissa!—What tho' short thy date?
 Virtue, not rolling suns, the mind matures.
 That life is long, which answers life's great end.

The time that bears no fruit, deserves no name;
 The man of wisdom is the man of years.
 In hoary youth Methuselems may die;
 O how misdated on their flatt'ring tombs!

Narcissa's youth has lectur'd me thus far
 And can her gaiety give counsel too?
 That, like the Jew's fam'd oracle of gems,
 Sparkles instruction; such as throws new light,
 And opens more the character of death;
 Ill known to thee, Lorenzo! this thy vaunt:
 ' Give death his due, the wretched, and the old;
 ' Ev'n let him sweep his rubbish to the grave;
 ' Let him not violate kind nature's laws,
 ' But own man born to live, as well as die.'
 Wretched and old thou giv'st him; young and gay
 He takes; and plunder is a tyrant's joy.
 What if I prove, ' The farthest from the fear,
 ' Are often nearest to the stroke of fate?'

All, more than common, menaces an end.
 A blaze betokens brevity of life:
 As if bright embers should emit a flame,
 Glad spirits sparkled from Narcissa's eye,
 And made youth younger, and taught life to live.
 As nature's opposites wage endless war,
 For this offence, as treason to the deep
 Inviolable stupor of his reign,
 Where lust, and turbulent ambition, sleep,
 Death took swift vengeance. As he life detests,
 More life is still more odious; and, reduc'd
 By conquest, aggrandizes more his pow'r.

But wherefore aggrandiz'd? by heav'n's decree,
To plant the soul on her eternal guard,
In awful expectation of our end.
Thus runs death's dread commission: 'Strike, but so;
' As most alarms the living by the dead.'
Hence stratagem delights him, and surprize,
And cruel sport with man's securities.
Not simple conquest, triumph is his aim;
And, where least fear'd, there conquest triumphs most.
This proves my bold assertion not too bold.

What are his arts to lay our fears asleep?
Tiberian arts his purposes wrap up
In deep dissimulation's darkest night.
Like princes unconfess'd in foreign courts,
Who travel under cover, death assumes
The name and look of life, and dwells among us.
He takes all shapes that serve his black designs:
Tho' master of a wider empire far
Than that, o'er which the Roman eagle flew;
Like Nero, he's a sidler, charioteer,
Or drives his Phaeton, in female guise;
Quite unsuspected, till the wheel beneath,
His disarray'd oblation he devours.

He most affects the forms least like himself,
His slender self. Hence burly corpulence
Is his familiar wear, and sleek disguise.
Behind the rosy bloom he loves to lurk,
Or ambush in a smile; or wanton dive
In dimples deep; loves eddies, which draw in
Unwary hearts, and sink them in despair.

Such, on Narcissa's couch he loiter'd long
Unknown; and, when detected, still was seen
To smile; such peace has innocence in death!

'Most happy they! whom least his arts deceive.
One eye on death, and one full-fix'd on heav'n,
Becomes a mortal, and immortal man.
Long on his wiles a piqu'd and jealous spy,
I've seen, or dreamt I saw, the tyrant dress;
Lay by his horrors, and put on his smiles.
Say, muse, for thou remember'st, call it back,
And shew Lorenzo the surprising scene;
If 'twas a dream, his genius can explain.

'Twas in a circle of the gay I stood.
Death would have enter'd; nature push'd him back;
Supported by a doctor of renown,
His point he gain'd. Then artfully dismiss
The sage; for death design'd to be conceal'd.
He gave an old vivacious usurer
His meagre aspect, and his naked bones;
In gratitude for plumping up his prey,
A pamper'd spendthrift; whose fantastic air,
Well fashion'd figure, and cockaded brow,
He took in change, and underneath the pride
Of costly linen, tuck'd his filthy shroud.
His crooked bow he straiten'd to a cane;
And hid his deadly shafts in Myra's eye.

The dreadful masquerader, thus equipt,
Out-sallies on adventures. Ask you where?
Where is he not? for his peculiar haunts,
Let this suffice; sure as night follows day,

Death treads in pleasure's footsteps round the world;
 When pleasure treads the paths, which reason shuns;
 When, against reason, riot shuts the door,
 And gaiety supplies the place of sense,
 Then, foremost at the banquet, and the ball,
 Death leads the dance, or stamps the deadly die;
 Nor ever fails the midnight bowl to crown.
 Gaily carousing to his gay compeers,
 Inly he laughs, to see them laugh at him,
 As absent far: and when the revel burns,
 When fear is banish'd, and triumphant thought,
 Calling for all the joys beneath the moon,
 Against him turns the key; and bids him sup
 With their progenitors—He drops his mask;
 Frowns out at full; they start, despair, expire.

Scarce with more sudden terror and surprise,
 From his black masque of nitre, touch'd by fire,
 He bursts, expands, roars, blazes, and devours.
 And is not this triumphant treachery,
 And more than simple conquest, in the fiend?

And now, Lorenzo, dost thou wrap thy soul
 In soft security, because unknown
 Which moment is commission'd to destroy?
 In death's uncertainty thy danger lies.
 Is death uncertain? therefore thou be fixt;
 Fixt as a centinel, all eye, all ear,
 All expectation of the coming foe.
 Rouse, stand in arms, nor lean against thy spear;
 Lest slumber steal one moment o'er thy soul,
 And fate surprize thee nodding. Watch, be strong;

Thus give each day the merit and renown,
Of dying well ; tho' doom'd but once to die.
Nor let life's period hidden (as from most)
Hide too from thee the precious use of life.

Early, not sudden, was Narcissa's fate.
Soon, not surprising, death his visit paid.
Her thought went forth to meet him on his way,
Nor gaiety forgot it was to die.
Tho' fortune too (our third and final theme,)
As an accomplice, play'd her gaudy plumes,
And ev'ry glittering gewgaw, on her sight,
To dazzle, and debauch it from its mark.
Death's dreadful advent is the mark of man;
And ev'ry thought that misses it, is blind.
Fortune, with youth and gaiety, conspir'd
To weave a triple wreath of happiness
(If happiness on earth) to crown her brow.
And could death charge thro' such a shining shield?

That shining shield invites the tyrants's spear.
As if to damp our elevated aims,
And strongly preach humility to man.
O how portentous is prosperity!
How, comet-like, it threatens while it shines!
Few years but yield us proof of death's ambition,
To call his victims from the fairest fold,
And sheath his shafts in all the pride of life.
When flooded with abundance, purpled o'er
With recent honours, bloom'd with ev'ry bliss,
Set up in ostentation, made the gaze,
The gaudy centre, of the public eye,

When fortune thus has toss'd her child in air,
Snatcht from the covert of an humble state,
How often have I seen him dropt at once.
Our morning's envy! and our ev'ning's sigh!
As if her bounties were the signal given,
The flow'ry wreath to mark the sacrifice,
And call death's arrows on the destin'd prey.

High fortune seems in cruel league with fate.
Ask you for what? to give his war on man
The deeper dread, and more illustrious spoil;
Thus to keep daring mortals more in awe.
And burns Lorenzo still for the sublime
Of life? to hang his airy nest on high,
On the slight timber of the topmost bough,
Rockt at each breeze, and menacing a fall?
Granting grim death at equal distance there;
Yet peace begins just where ambition ends.
What makes man wretched? Happiness deny'd?
Lorenzo! no: 'tis happiness disdain'd.
She comes too meanly dress'd to win our smile;
And calls herself Content, a homely name!
Our flame is transport, and content our scorn.
Ambition turns, and shuts the door against her,
And weds a toil, a tempest, in her stead;
A tempest to warm transport near of kin.
Unknowing what our mortal state admits,
Life's modest joys we ruin, while we raise;
And all our ecstasies are wounds to peace:
Peace, the full portion of mankind below.

And since thy peace is dear, ambitious youth!

Of fortune fond, as thoughtless of thy fate !
As late I drew death's picture, to stir up
Thy wholesome fears ; now drawn in contrast, see
Gay fortune's, thy vain hopes to reprimand.
See, high in air, the sportive goddess hangs,
Unlocks her casket, spreads her glitt'ring ware,
And calls the giddy winds to puff abroad
Her random bounties o'er the gaping throng.
All rush rapacious ; friends o'er trodden friends ;
Sons o'er their fathers, subjects o'er their kings,
Priests o'er their gods, and lovers o'er the fair,
(Still more ador'd) to snatch the golden show'r.

Gold glitters most, where virtue shines no more ;
As stars from absent suns have leave to shine.
O what a precious pack of votaries
Unkennell'd from the prisons, and the stews,
Pour in, all op'ning in their idol's praise !
All, ardent, eye each wasture of her hand,
And wide-expanding their voracious jaws,
Morsel on morsel swallow'd down unchew'd,
Untasted, thro' mad appetite for more ;
Gorg'd to the throat, yet lean and rav'nous still.
Sagacious all, to trace the smallest game,
And bold to seize the greatest. If (blest chance!)
Court-zephyrs sweetly breathe, they launch, they fly,
O'er just, o'er sacred, all forbidden ground.
Drunk with the burning scent of place or pow'r,
Staunch to the foot of lucre, till they die.

Or, if for men you take them, as I mark
Their manners, thou their various fates survey,

With aim mis-measur'd, and impetuous speed,
Some darting, strike their ardent wish far off,
Thro' fury to possess it : some succeed,
But stumble, and let fall the taken prize.
From some, by sudden blasts, 'tis whirl'd away,
And lodg'd in bosoms that ne'er dream'd of gain.
To some it sticks so close, that, when torn off,
Torn is the man and mortal is the wound.
Some, o'er enamour'd of their bags, run mad,
Groan under gold, yet weep for want of bread.
Together some (unhappy rivals !) seize,
And rend abundance into poverty ;
Loud croaks the raven of the law, and smiles :
Smiles too the goddess ; but smiles most at those,
(Just victims of exorbitant desire!)
Who perish at their own request, and, whelm'd.
Beneath her load of lavish grants, expire.
Fortune is famous for her numbers slain.
The number small, which happiness can bear.
Tho' various for a while their fates ; at last
One curse involves them all : at death's approach,
All read their riches backward into loss,
And mourn in just proportion to their store.
And death's approach (if orthodox my song)
Is hasten'd by the lure of fortune's smiles.
And art thou still a glutton of bright gold ?
And art thou still rapacious of thy ruin ?
Death loves a shining mark, a signal blow ;
A blow, which, while it executes, alarms ;
And startles thousands with a single fall.

As when some stately growth of oak, or pine,
Which nods aloft, and proudly spreads her shade,
The sun's defiance, and the flock's defence;
By the strong strokes of lab'ring hinds subdu'd,
Loud groans her last, and, rushing from her height,
In cumb'rous ruin thunders to the ground:
The conscious forest trembles at the shock,
And hill, and stream, and distant dale, resound.

These high aim'd darts of death, and these alone,
Should I collect, my quiver would be full.

A quiver, which, suspended in mid air,
Or near heav'n's archer, in the zodiac, hung,
(So could it be) should draw the public eye,
The gaze and contemplation of mankind!

A constellation awful, yet benign,
To guide the gay thro' life's tempestuous wave;
Nor suffer them to strike the common rock,
' From greater danger to grow more secure,
' And, wrapt in happiness, forget their fate.'

Lyfander, happy past the common lot,
Was warn'd of danger, but too gay to fear.
He woo'd the fair Aspasia: she was kind:
In youth, form, fortune, fame, they both were blest:
All who knew, envy'd; yet in envy lov'd:
Can fancy form more finish'd happiness?
Fixt was the nuptial hour. Her stately dome
Rose on the sounding beach. The glitt'ring spires
Float in the wave, and break against the shore:
So break those glitt'ring shadows, human joys.
The faithless morning smil'd: he takes his leave,

To re-embrace in ecstacies, at eve.
The rising storm forbids. The news arrives:
Untold, she saw it in her servant's eye.
She felt it seen (her heart was apt to feel;)
And, drown'd, without the furious ocean's aid,
In suffocating sorrows shares his tomb.
Now, round the sumptuous, bridal monument,
The guilty billows innocently roar;
And the rough sailor passing, drops a tear.
A tear?—Can tears suffice?—But not for me.
How vain our efforts! and our arts, how vain!
The distant train of thought I took, to shun,
Has thrown me on my fate—These dy'd together;
Happy in ruin! undivorc'd by death!
Or ne'er to meet, or ne'er to part is peace—
Narcissa! pity bleeds at thought of thee.
Yet thou wast only near me; not myself.
Survive myself.—That cures all other woe.
Narcissa lives; Philander is forgot.
O the soft commerce! O the tender ties,
Close-twisted with the fibres of the heart!
Which, broken, break them; and drain off the soul
Of human joy; and make it pain to live—
And is it then to live? when such friends part,
'Tis the survivor dies—My heart! no more.

NIGHT THE SIXTH.

THE
INFIDEL RECLAIMED.

IN TWO PARTS.

CONTAINING

THE NATURE, PROOF, AND IMPORTANCE,

OF

IMMORTALITY.

PART THE FIRST.

Where, among other things, GLORY and RICHES are
particularly considered.

Humbly inscribed to the Right Honourable

HENRY PELHAM,

First LORD COMMISSIONER of the TREASURY, and
CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER.

P R E F A C E.

FEW ages have been deeper in dispute about religion, than this. The dispute about religion, and the practice of it, seldom go together. The shorter, therefore, the dispute, the better. I think it may be reduced to this single question. Is man immortal, or is he not? If he is not, all our disputes are mere amusements, or trials of skill. In this case, truth, reason, religion, which give our discourses such pomp and solemnity, are (as will be shewn) mere empty sounds, without any meaning in them. But if man is immortal, it will behove him to be very serious about eternal consequences; or, in other words, to be truly religious. And this great fundamental truth, unestablished, or unawaken'd in the minds of men, is, I conceive, the real source and support of all our infidelity; how remote soever the particular objections advanced may seem to be from it.

Sensible appearances affect most men much more than abstract reasonings; and we daily see bodies drop around us, but the soul is invisible. The power which inclination has over the judgment, is greater than can be well conceived by those that have not had an experience of it; and of what numbers is it the sad interest, that souls should not survive! The heathen world confessed, that they rather hoped, than firmly believed immortality! and how many heathens have we still amongst us! The sacred page assures us, that life and

immortality is brought to light by the gospel : but by how many is the gospel rejected, or overlooked ! From these considerations, and from my being, accidentally, privy to the sentiments of some particular persons, I have been long persuaded, that most, if not all, our infidels (whatever name they take, and whatever scheme, for argument's sake, and to keep themselves in countenance, they patronize) are supported in their deplorable error, by some doubt of their immortality, at the bottom. And I am satisfied, that men once thoroughly convinced of their immortality, are not far from being Christians. For it is hard to conceive, that a man fully conscious eternal pain or happiness will certainly be his lot, should not earnestly, and impartially, inquire after the surest means of escaping the one, and securing the other. And of such an earnest and impartial inquiry I well know the consequence.

Here, therefore, in proof of this most fundamental truth, some plain arguments are offered ; arguments derived from principles which infidels admit in common with believers ; arguments, which appear to me altogether irresistible ; and such as, I am satisfied, will have great weight with all, who give themselves the small trouble of looking seriously into their own bosoms, and of observing, with any tolerable degree of attention, what daily passes round about them in the world. If some arguments shall, here, occur, which others have declined, they are submitted, with all deference, to better judgments in this, of all points, the most important. For, as to the being of a God, that is no longer disput-

ed; but it is undisputed for this reason only; viz. because where the least pretence to reason is admitted, it must for ever be indisputable. And, of consequence, no man can be betrayed into a dispute of that nature by vanity, which has a principal share in animating our modern combatants against other articles of our belief.

THE
COMPLAINT.

NIGHT THE SIXTH.

SHE * (for I know not yet her name in heaven)
Not early, like Narcissa, left the scene ;
Nor sudden, like Philander. What avail ?
This seeming mitigation but inflames :
This fancy'd med'cine heightens the disease.
The longer known, the closer still she grew ;
And gradual parting is a gradual death.
'Tis the grim tyrant's engine, which extorts
By tardy pressure's still-increasing weight,
From hardest hearts. confession of distress.

O the long, dark approach thro' years of pain,
Death's gall'ry ! (might I dare to call it so)
With dismal doubt, and sable terror, hung ;
Sick hope's pale lamp, its only glimm'ring ray :
There, fate my melancholy walk ordain'd,
Forbid self-love itself to flatter, there.
How oft I gaz'd, prophetically sad !
How oft I saw her dead, while yet in smiles !
In smiles she sunk her grief, to lessen mine.
She spoke me comfort, and increas'd my pain.

* Referring to Night the Fifth.

Like pow'rful armies trenching at a town,
By slow, and silent, but resistless sap,
In his pale progress gently gaining ground,
Death urg'd his deadly siege; in spite of art,
Of all the balmy blessings nature lends
To succour frail humanity. Ye stars!
(Not now first made familiar to my sight)
And thou, O moon! bear witness; many a night
He tore the pillow from beneath my head,
Ty'd down my sore attention to the shock,
By ceaseless depredations on a life
Dearer than that he left me. Dreadful post
Of observation! darker ev'ry hour!
Less dread the day that drove me to the brink,
And pointed at eternity below;
When my soul shudder'd at futurity;
When on a moment's point, th' important dye
Of life and death spun doubtful, ere it fell;
And turn'd up life; my title to more woe.

But why more woe? more comfort let it be,
Nothing is dead but that which wish'd to die;
Nothing is dead, but wretchedness and pain;
Nothing is dead, but what incumber'd, gall'd,
Block'd up the pass, and barr'd from real life.
Where dwells that wish most ardent of the wise?
Too dark the sun to see it; highest stars
Too low to reach it: death, great death alone,
O'er stars and sun, triumphant, lands us there.
Nor dreadful our transition; tho' the mind,
An artist at creating self-alarms,

Rich in expedients for inquietude,
Is prone to paint it dreadful. Who can take
Deaths portrait true? the tyrant never sat.
Our sketch all random strokes, conjecture-all;
Close shuts the grave, nor tells one single tale.
Death, and his image rising in the brain,
Bear faint resemblance: never are alike:
Fear shakes the pencil; fancy loves excess,
Dark ignorance is lavish of her shades:
And these the formidable picture draw.

But grant the worst; 'tis past: new prospects rise;
And drop a veil eternal o'er her tomb.
Far other views our contemplation claim,
Views that o'erpay the rigours of our life;
Views that suspend our agonies in death.
Wrapt in the thought of immortality,
Wrept in the single, the triumphant thought!
Long life might lapse, age unperceiv'd come on;
And find the soul unsated with her theme.
Its nature, proof, importance fire my song.
O that my song could emulate my soul!
Like her, immortal. No!—the soul disdains
A mark so mean; far nobler hope inflames;
If endless ages can outweigh an hour,
Lies not the laurel, but the palm, inspire.

Thy nature, Immortality! who knows?
And yet who knows it not? it is but life
In stronger thread of brighter colour spun,
And spun for ever; dipt by cruel fate
In Stygian dye, how black, how brittle here!

How short our correspondence with the fun!
And while it lasts, inglorious! our best deeds,
How wanting in their weight! our highest joys
Small cordials to support us in our pain,
And give us strength to suffer. But how great
To mingle int'rests, converse, amities,
With all the sons of reason, scatter'd wide
Through habitable space, where-ever born,
How'er endow'd! to live free citizens
Of universal nature! to lay hold
By more than feeble faith on the Supreme!
To call heaven's rich unfathomable mines
(Mines which support archangels in their state)
Our own! to rise in science, as in bliss,
Initiate in the secrets of the skies!
To read creation; read its mighty plan
In the bare bosom of the Deity!
The plan, and execution, to collate!
To see, before each glance of piercing thought,
All cloud, all shadow, blown remote; and leave
No mystery—but that of love divine,
Which lifts us on the seraph's flaming wing,
From earth's Aceldama, this field of blood,
Of inward anguish, and of outward ill,
From darkness, and from dust, to such a scene!
Love's element! true joy's illustrious home!
From earth's sad contrast (now deplor'd) more fair!
What exquisite vicissitude of fate!
Blest absolution of our blackest hour!

Lorenzo these are thoughts that make man man,

The wise illumine, aggrandize the great.
How great, (while yet we tread the kindred clod,
And ev'ry moment fear to sink beneath
The clod we tread; soon trodden by our sons)
How great, in the wild whirl of time's pursuits,
To stop, and pause, involv'd in high presage,
Through the long vista of a thousand years,
To stand contemplating our distant selves,
As in a magnifying mirror seen
Enlarg'd, ennobled, elevate, divine!
To prophesy our own futurities!
To gaze in thought on what all thought transcends!
To talk with fellow-candidates, of joys
As far beyond conception as desert,
Ourselves th' astonish'd talkers, and the tale!

Lorenzo. swells thy bosom at the thought!
The swell becomes thee: 'tis an honest pride.
Revere thyself;—and yet thyself despise.
His nature no man can o'er-rate; and none
Can under-rate his merit. Take good heed,
Nor there be modest, where thou shouldst be proud;
That almost universal error shun.
How just our pride, when we behold those heights!
Not Those ambition paints in air, but those
Reason points out, and ardent virtue gains:
And angels emulate; our pride how just!
When mount we? when these shackles cast? when quit
This cell of the creation? this small nest,
Stuck in a corner of the universe,
Wrapt up in fleecy cloud, and fine-spun air!

Fine spun to sense? but gross and feculent
To souls celestial; souls ordain'd to breathe
Ambrosial gales, and drink a purer sky;
Greatly triumphant on time's farther shore,
Where virtue reigns, enrich'd with full arrears;
While pomp imperial begs an alms of peace.

In empire high, or in proud science deep,
Ye born of earth! on what can you confer,
With half the dignity with half the gain,
The gust, the glow of rational delight,
As on this theme, which angels praise and share?
Man's fates and favours are a theme in heav'n.

What wretched repetition cloy's us here!
What periodic potions for the sick!
Distemper'd bodies! and distemper'd minds!
In an eternity, what scenes shall strike!
Adventures thicken! novelties surprise!
What webs of wonder shall unravel, there!
What full day pour on all the paths of heaven,
And light th' Almighty's footsteps in the deep!
How shall the blessed day of our discharge
Unwind, at once, the labyrinths of fate,
And straiten its inextricable maze!

If inextinguishable thirst in man
To know; how rich. how full our banquet there!
There, not the moral world alone unfolds;
The world material, lately seen in shades,
And in those shades, by fragments only seen,
And seen those fragments by the lab'ring eye,
Unbroken, then, illustrious and entire,

Its ample sphere, its universal frame,
In full dimensions, swells to the survey;
And enters, at one glance the ravish'd sight.
From some superior point (where, who can tell?
Suffice it, 'tis a point where gods reside)
How shall the stranger man's illumin'd eye,
In the vast ocean of unbounded space,
Behold an infinite of floating worlds
Divide the crystal waves of ether pure,
In endless voyage, without port? the least
Of these disseminated orbs, how great!
Great as they are, what numbers these surpass,
Huge, as leviathan, to that small race,
Those twinkling multitudes of little life,
He swallows unperceiv'd! Stupendous these!
Yet what are these stupendous to the whole?
As particles, as atoms ill perceiv'd;
As circulating globules in our veins;
So vast the plan: fecundity divine!
Exub'rant source! perhaps, I wrong thee still.

If admiration is a source of joy,
What transport hence! yet this the least in heaven.
What this to that illustrious robe He wears,
Who tost this mass of wonders from his hand,
A specimen an earnest, of his power?
'Tis, to that glory, whence all glory flows,
As the mead's meanest flow'ret to the sun,
Which gave it birth. But what, this sun of heav'n?
This bliss supreme of the supremely blest?
Death, only death the question can resolve,

By death, cheap bought th' ideas of our joy;
The bare ideas! solid happiness
So distant from its shadow, chas'd below.

And chase we still the phantom through the fire,
O'er bog, and brake, and precipice, till death?
And toil we still for sublunary pay?
Defy the dangers of the field and flood,
Or, spider-like, spin out our precious all,
Our more than vitals spin (if no regard
To great futurity) in curious webs
Of subtle thought, and exquisite design;
(Fine net-work of the brain! to catch a fly!
The momentary buz of vain renown!
A name! a mortal immortality!

Or (meaner still!) instead of grasping air,
For sordid lucre plunge we in the mire?
Drudge, sweat, through ev'ry shame, for ev'ry gain,
For vile contaminating trash; throw up
Our hope in heav'n, our dignity with man?
And deify the dirt, matur'd to gold?
Ambition, avarice; the two daemons these,
Which goad through every slough our human herd,
Hard-travell'd from the cradle to the grave.
How low the wretches stoop! how steep they climb!
These daemons burn mankind but most possess
Lorenzo's bosom, and turn out the skies.

Is it in time to hide eternity?
And why not in an atom on the shore,
To cover ocean? or a mote, the sun?
Glory and wealth! have they this blinding power?

What if to them, I prove Lorenzo blind?
 Would it surprize thee? Be thou then surpriz'd;
 Thou neither know'st: their nature learn from me.
 Mark well, as foreign as these subjects seem,
 What close connexion ties them to my theme.
 First, what is true ambition? the pursuit
 Of glory, nothing less than man can share.
 Were they as vain, as gaudy-minded man,
 As statulent with fumes of self-applause,
 Their arts and conquests animals might boast,
 And claim their laurel crowns as well as we;
 But not celestial. Here we stand alone;
 As in our form, distinct, pre-eminent;
 If prone in thought, our stature is our shame;
 And man should blush, his forehead meets the skies.
 The visible and present are for brutes,
 A slender portion! and a narrow bound!
 These reason, with an energy divine,
 O'erleaps; and claims the future and unseen;
 The vast unseen! the future fathomless!
 When the great soul buoys up to this high point,
 Leaving gross nature's sediments below,
 Then, and then only, Adam's offspring quits
 The sage and hero of the fields and woods,
 Asserts his rank, and rises into man.
 This is ambition. this is human fire.

Can parts or place (two bold pretenders!) make
 Lorenzo great, and pluck him from the throng?
 Genius and art, ambition's boasted wings,
 Our boast but ill-deserve. A feeble aid!

Dedalian engin'ry! if these alone
 Assail our sight, fame's flight is glory's fall.
 Heart-merit wanting, mount we ne'er so high,
 Our height is but the gibbet of our name.
 A celebrated wretch when I behold,
 When I behold a genius bright and base,
 Of tow'ring talents, and terrestrial aims;
 Methinks I see, as thrown from her high sphere,
 The glorious fragments of a soul immortal,
 With rubbish mix'd, and glitt'ring in the dust.
 Struck at the splendid, melancholy sight,
 At once compassion soft, and envy, rise——
 But wherefore envy? talents angel-bright,
 If wanting worth, are shining instruments
 In false ambition's hand, to finish faults
 Illustrious, and give infamy renown.

Great ill is an atchievement of great pow'ra.
 Plain sense but rarely leads us far astray.
 Reason the means, affections chuse our end;
 Means have no merit, if our end amiss.
 If wrong our hearts, our heads are right in vain;
 What is a Pelham's head, to Pelham's heart?
 Hearts are proprietors of all applause.
 Right ends, and means, make wisdom: worldly wise
 Is but half-witted, at its highest praise.

Let genius then despair to make thee great;
 Nor flatter station: what is station high?
 'Tis a proud mendicant, it boasts, and begs;
 It begs an alms of homage from the throng,
 And oft the throng denies its charity.

Monarchs, and ministers, are awful names;
Whoever wear them, challenge our devoir.
Religion, public order, both exact
External homage, and a supple knee,
To beings pompously set up, to serve
The meanest slave; all more is merit's due,
Her sacred and inviolable right;
Nor ever paid the monarch, but the man.
Our hearts ne'er bow but to superior worth;
Nor ever fail of their allegiance there.
Fools, indeed, drop the man in their account,
And vote the mantle into majesty.
Let the small savage, boast his silver fur;
His royal robe unborrow'd, and unbought,
His own, descending fairly from his fires.
Shall man be proud to wear his livery,
And souls in ermin scorn a soul without?
Can place or lessen us, or aggrandize?
Pygmies are pygmies still, though perch'd on Alps;
And pyramids are pyramids in vales.
Each man makes his own stature, builds himself:
Virtue alone out-builds the pyramids;
Her monuments shall last, when Egypt's fall.
Of these sure truths dost thou demand the cause?
The cause is lodg'd in immortality.
Hear, and assent. Thy bosom burns for pow'r;
What station charms thee? I'll install thee there;
'Tis thine. And art thou greater than before?
Then thou before wast something less than man.
Has thy new post betray'd thee into pride?

That treach'rous pride betrays thy dignity ;
That pride defames humanity, and calls
The being mean, which staffs or strings can raise.
That pride, like hooded hawks, in darkness soars,
From blindness bold, and tow'ring to the skies.
'Tis born of ignorance, which knows not man :
An angel's second ; nor his second, long.
A Nero quitting his imperial throne,
And courting glory from the tinkling string,
But faintly shadows an immortal soul,
With empire's self, to pride or rapture fir'd.
If nobler motives minister no cure,
Ev'n vanity forbids thee to be vain.

High worth is elevated place : 'tis more ;
It makes the post stand candidate for thee ;
Makes more than monarchs, makes an honest man ;
Though no exchequer it commands, 'tis wealth ;
And though it wears no ribband, 'tis renown ;
Renown, that would not quit thee, though disgrac'd,
Nor leave thee pendent on a master's smile.
Other ambition nature interdicts ;
Nature proclaims it most absurd in man,
By pointing at his origin and end ;
Milk, and a swathe, at first, his whole demand ;
His whole domain, at last a turf or stone ;
To whom, between, a world may seem too small.

Souls truly great dart forward on the wing
Of just ambition, to the grand result,
The curtain's fall ; there, see the buskin'd chief
Unshod behind this momentary scene ;

Reduc'd to his own stature, low or high,
As vice or virtue, sinks him. or sublimes;
And laugh at this fantastic mummery,
This antic prelude of grotesque events,
Where dwarfs are often stilted. and betray
A littleness of soul by worlds o'er-run,
And nations laid in blood. Dread sacrifice
To Christian pride! which had with horror shockt:
The darkeſt Pagans, offer'd to their gods.

O thou moſt Chriſtian enemy to peace!
Again in arms? again provoking fate?
That prince, and that alone, is truly great,
Who draws the ſword reluctant, gladly ſheaths;
On empire builds what empire far outweighs,
And makes his throne a ſcaffold to the ſkies.

Why this ſo rare? becauſe forgot of all
The day of death; that venerable day,
Which ſits as Judge; that day, which ſhall pronounce
On all our days, abſolve them, or condemn.
Lorenzo, never ſhut thy thought againſt it;
Be levees ne'er ſo full, afford it room,
And give it audience in the cabinet.
That friend conſulted, flatteries apart,
Will tell thee fair, if thou art great or mean.

To doat on aught may leave us, or be left;
Is that ambition? then let flames deſcend,
Point to the centre their inverted ſpires,
And learn humiliation from a ſoul,
Which boalts her lineage from celeftial fire.
Yet theſe are they, the world pronounces wiſe;

The world, which cancels nature's right and wrong,
And casts new wisdom: ev'n the grave man lends
His solemn face, to countenance the coin.
Wisdom for parts is madness for the whole.
This stamps the paradox, and gives us leave
To call the wisest weak, the richest poor,
The most ambitious, unambitious, mean;
In triumph mean; and abject, on a throne.
Nothing can make it less than mad in man,
To put forth all his ardor, all his art,
And give his soul her full unbounded flight,
But reaching him, who gave her wings to fly.
When blind ambition quite mistakes her road,
And downward pores, for that which shines above,
Substantial happiness, and true renown;
Then, like an idiot gazing on the brook,
We leap at stars, and fasten in the mud;
At glory grasp, and sink in infamy.

Ambition! pow'rful source of good and ill!
Thy strength in man, like length of wing in birds,
When disengag'd from earth, with greater ease,
And swifter flight, transports us to the skies;
By toys entangled, or in guilt bemir'd,
It turns a curse; it is our chain, and scourge,
In this dark dungeon, where confin'd we lie,
Close-grated by the sordid bars of sense;
All prospect of eternity shut out;
And, but for execution, ne'er set free.

With error in ambition justly charg'd,
Find we Lorenzo wiser in his wealth?

What if thy rental I reform? and draw
 An inventory new to set thee right?
 Where, thy true treasure? gold says, 'not in me:'
 And, 'not in me,' the di'mond. Gold is poor;
 India's insolvent: seek it in thyself,
 Seek in thy naked self, and find it there;
 In being so descended, form'd, endow'd;
 Sky-born, sky-guided, sky-returning race!
 Erect, immortal, rational, divine!
 In senses, which inherit earth, and heav'n's;
 Enjoy the various riches nature yields;
 Far nobler; give the riches they enjoy;
 Give taste to fruits, and harmony to groves;
 Their radiant beams to gold, and gold's bright fire:
 Take in, at once, the landscape of the world,
 At a small inlet, which a grain might close,
 And half create the wond'rous world they see.
 Our senses, as our reason, are divine.
 But for the magic organ's pow'rful charm,
 Earth were a rude, uncolour'd chaos still.
 Objects are but th' occasion; ours th' exploit;
 Ours is the cloth, the pencil, and the paint,
 Which nature's admirable picture draws;
 And beautifies creation's ample dome.
 Like Milton's Eve, when gazing on the lake,
 Man makes the matchless image, man admires.
 Say then, shall man, his thoughts all sent abroad,
 Superior wonders in himself forgot,
 His admiration waste on objects round,
 When heav'n makes him the soul of all he sees?

Abfurd ! not rare ! fo great, fo mean, is man.

What wealth in fenses fuch as thefe ! what wealth
In fancy, fir'd to form a fairer fcene
Than fenfe furies ! in mem'ry's firm record,
Which, fhould it perifh, could this world recall
From the dark fhadows of o'erwhelming years !
In colours frefh, originally bright
Preferve its portrait, and report its fate !
What wealth in intellect, that fov'reign pow'r !
Which fenfe, and fancy, fummmons to the bar ;
Interrogates, approves, or reprehends ;
And from the mafs thofe underlings import,
From their materials fifted, and refin'd,
And in truth's balance accurately weigh'd,
Forms art, and fcience, government, and law ;
The folid bafis, and the beauteous frame,
The vitals, and the grace of civil life !
And manners (fad exception !) fet afide,
Strikes out, with mafter-hand, a copy fair
Of his idea, whole indulgent thought,
Long, long, ere chaos teem'd, plann'd human blifs.

What wealth in fouls that foar, dive, range around,
Diffdaining limit. or from place, or time ;
And hear at once, in thought extenfive, hear
Th' almighty fiat, and the trumpet's found !
Bold, on creation's outside walk, and view
What was, and is, and more than e'er fhall be ;
Commanding, with omnipotence of thought,
Creation's new in fancy's field to rife !
Souls, that can grasp whate'er th' Almighty made,

And wander wild thro' things impossible !
What wealth, in faculties of endless growth,
In quenchless passions violent to crave,
In liberty to chuse, in pow'r to reach,
And in duration (how thy riches rise!)
Duration to perpetuate—boundless blifs!

Ask you what pow'r resides in feeble man
That blifs to gain? Is virtue's, then, unknown?
Virtue, our present peace, our future prize.
Man's unprecarius, natural estate,
Improveable at will, in virtue lies;
Its tenure sure; its income is divine.

High-built abundance, heap on heap! for what!
To breed new wants, and beggar us the more;
Then, make a richer scramble for the throng?
Soon as this feeble pulse, which leaps so long
Almost by miracle, is tir'd with play,
Like rubbish from dislodging engines thrown,
Our magazines of hoarded trifles fly;
Fly diverse; fly to foreigners, to foes;
New masters court, and call the former fool
(How justly! for dependence on their stay.
Wide scatter, first, our play-things; then, our dust.

Dost court abundance for the sake of peace?
Learn, and lament thy self-defeated scheme;
Riches enable to be richer still;
And, richer still, what mortal can resist?
Thus wealth (a cruel task-master!) enjoins
New toils, succeeding toils, an endless train!
And-murders peace, which taught it first to shine.

The poor are half as wretched, as the rich;
Whose proud and painful privilege it is,
At once, to bear a double load of woe;
To feel the stings of envy, and of want,
Outrageous want! both Indies cannot cure.

A competence is vital to content.

Much wealth is corpulence, if not disease;
Sick, or incumber'd, is our happiness.

A competence is all we can enjoy.

O be content, where heav'n can give no more!

More, like a flash of water from a lock,

Quickens our spirit's movement for an hour;

But soon its force is spent, nor rise our joys

Above our native temper's common stream.

Hence disappointment lurks in ev'ry prize,

As bees in flow'rs; and stings us with success.

The rich man, who denies it, proudly feigns;

Nor knows the wise are privy to the lye.

Much learning shews how little mortals know;

Much wealth, how little worldlings can enjoy:

At best, it babies us with endless toys,

And keeps us children till we drop to dust.

As monkeys at a mirror stand amaz'd,

They fail to find, what they so plainly see;

Thus men, in shining riches, see the face

Of happiness, nor know it is a shade;

But gaze, and touch, and peep, and peep again,

And wish, and wonder it is absent still.

How few can rescue opulence from want!

Who lives to nature, rarely can be poor:

Who lives to fancy, never can be rich.
 Poor is the man in debt; the man of gold,
 In debt to fortune, trembles at her pow'r.
 The man of reason smiles at her and death.
 O what a patrimony this! a being
 Of such inherent strength and majesty,
 Not worlds possess can raise it; worlds destroy'd
 Can't injure; which holds on its glorious course,
 When thine, O nature! ends; too blest to mourn
 Creation's obsequies. What treasure, this!
 The monarch is a beggar to the man.

Immortal! ages past, yet nothing gone!
 Morn without eve! a race without a goal!
 Unshorten'd by progression infinite!
 Futurity for ever future! life
 Beginning still, where computation ends!
 'Tis the description of a Deity!
 'Tis the description of the meanest slave:
 The meanest slave dares then Lorenzo scorn?
 The meanest slave thy sov'reign glory shares.
 Proud youth! fastidious of the lower world!
 Man's lawful pride includes humility;
 Stoops to the lowest; is too great to find
 Inferior; all immortal! brothers all!
 Proprietors eternal of thy love.

IMMORTAL! what can strike the sense so strong,
 As this the soul? it thunders to the thought;
 Reason amazes; gratitude o'erwhelms;
 No more we slumber on the brink of fate;
 Rous'd at the sound, th' exulting soul ascends.

And breathes her native air: an air that feeds
Ambitions high, and fans etherial fires;
Quick-kindles all that is divine within us;
Nor leaves one loit'ring thought beneath the stars.

Has not Lorenzo's bosom caught the flame?
Immortal! were but one immortal; how
Would others envy! how would thrones adore!
Because 'tis common is the blessing lost?
How this ties up the bounteous hand of heav'n!
O vain, vain, vain! all else! eternity!
A glorious and a needful refuge, that,
From vile imprisonment, in abject views,
'Tis immortality. 'tis that alone,
Amid life's pains, abasements, emptiness,
The soul can comfort elevate, and fill.
That only, and that amply, this performs:
Lifts us above life's pains, her joys above;
Their terror those; and these their lustre lose;
Eternity depending covers all;
Eternity depending all atchieves;
Sets earth at distance; casts her into shades;
Blends her distinctions: abrogates her pow'rs;
The low, the lofty joyous, and severe,
Fortune's dread frowns, and fascinating smiles,
Make one promiscuous and neglected heap,
The man beneath; If I may call him man,
Whom immortality's full force inspires.
Nothing terrestrial touches his high thought;
Suns shine unseen, and thunders roll unheard,
By minds quite conscious of their high descent.

Their present province. and their future prize;
 Divinely darting upward ev'ry wish,
 Warm on the wing, in glorious absence lost.

Doubt you this truth? why labours your belief?
 If earth's whole orb, by some due-distant eye
 Were seen at once, her tow'ring Alps would sink,
 And levell'd Atlas leave an even sphere.
 Thus earth, and all that earthly minds admire,
 Is swallow'd in eternity's vast round.
 To that stupendous view, when souls awake,
 So large of late, so mountainous to man,
 Time's toys subside; and equal all below.

Enthusiastic, this? then all are weak,
 But rank enthusiasts. To this godlike height
 Some souls have soar'd; or martyrs ne'er had bled.
 And all may do, what has by man been done.
 Who, beaten by these sublunary storms,
 Boundless, interminable joys can weigh,
 Unraptur'd, unexalted, uninflam'd?
 What slave unblest, who from to-morrow's dawn
 Expects an empire? he forgets his chain,
 And, thron'd in thought, his absent sceptre waves.

And what a sceptre waits us! what a throne!
 Her own immense appointments to compute,
 Or comprehend our high prerogatives,
 In this her dark minority, how toils,
 How vainly pants, the human soul divine!
 Too great the bounty seems for earthly joy:
 What heart but trembles at so strange a bliss?
 In spite of all the truths the muse has sung,

Ne'er to be priz'd enough! enough revolv'd!
Are there who wrap the world so close about them,
They see no farther than the clouds; and dance
On heedless vanity's phantastic toe,
Till, stumbling at a straw, in their career,
Headlong they plunge, where end both dance and song?
Are there, Lorenzo: is it possible?
Are there on earth (let me not call them men)
Who lodge a soul immortal in their breasts;
Unconscious as the mountain of its ore;
Or rock, of its inestimable gem?
When rocks shall melt, and mountains vanish, these
Shall know their treasure; treasure, then, no more.

Are there (still more amazing!) who resist
The rising thought? who smother, in its birth,
The glorious truth? who struggle to be brutes?
Who thro' this bosom-barrier burst their way?
And, with reverse ambition, strive to sink:
Who labour downwards thro' th' opposing powers
Of instinct, reason, and the world against them,
To dismal hopes, and shelter in the shock
Of endless night? night darker than the grave's?
Who fight the proofs of immortality?
With horrid zeal, and execrable arts,
Work all their engines, level their black fires,
To blot from man this attribute divine,
(Than vital blood far dearer to the wise)
Blasphemers, and rank atheists to themselves?
To contradict them, see all nature rise!
What object, what event, the moon beneath,

But argues, or endears, an after-scene?
To reason proves, or weds it to desire?
All things proclaim it needful; some advance
One precious step beyond, and prove it sure.
A thousand arguments swarm round my pen,
From heav'n, and earth, and man. Indulge a few,
By nature, as her common habit, worn;
So pressing providence a truth to teach.
Which truth untaught, all other truths were vain.

THOU! whose all-providential eye surveys,
Whose hand directs, whose spirit fills and warms
Creation, and holds empire far beyond!
Eternity's Inhabitant angust!

Of two eternities amazing Lord!
One past, ere man's, or angel's, had begun;
Aid! while I rescue from the foe's assault,
Thy glorious immortality in man:
A theme for ever, and for all, of weight,
Of moment infinite! but relish'd most
By those who love thee most, who most adore.

Nature, thy daughter, ever-changing birth
Of thee the great immutable, to man
Speaks wisdom; is his oracle supreme;
And he who most consults her, is most wise.
Lorenzo, to this heav'nly Delphos haste;
And come back all-immortal; all-divine:
Look nature through, 'tis revolution all;
All change, no death. Day follows night; and night
The dying day; stars rise, and set, and rise;
Earth takes th' example. See, the summer gay,

With her green chaplet, and ambrosial flowers,
Droops into pallid autumn: winter grey,
Horrid with frost, and turbulent with storm,
Blows autumn, and his golden fruits, away:
Then melts into the spring: soft spring, with breath
Favonian, from warm chambers of the south,
Recalls the first. All to re-flourish, fades.
As in a wheel, all sinks to re-ascend.
Emblems of man, who passes, not expires.

With this minute distinction, emblems just,
Nature revoles, but man advances; both
Eternal, that a circle, this a line.
That gravitates, this soars. Th' aspiring soul
Ardent, and tremulous, like flame, ascends;
Zeal, and humility, her wings to heav'n.
The world of matter, with its various forms,
All dies unto new life. Life born from death
Rolls the vast mass, and shall for ever roll:
No single atom, once in being, lost,
With change of counsel charges the most High.

What hence infers Lorenzo? Can it be?
Matter immortal? and shall spirit die?
Above the nobler, shall less noble rise?
Shall man alone, for whom all else revives,
No resurrection know? shall man alone,
Imperial man! be sown in barren ground,
Less privileg'd than grain, on which he seeds?
Is man; in whom alone is pow'r to prize
The bliss of being, or with previous pain
Deploze its period, by the spleen of fate.

Severely doom'd death's single unredeem'd ?

If nature's revolution speaks aloud,
In her gradation, hear her louder still.
Look nature thro', 'tis neat gradation all.
By what minute degrees her scale ascends!
Each middle nature join'd at each extreme,
To that above it join'd, to that beneath.
Parts, into parts reciprocally shot,
Abhor divorce: what love of union reigns
Here, dormant matter waits a call to life;
Half-life, half-death, join there; here, life and sense;
There, sense from reason steals a glimm'ring ray;
Reason shines out in man. But how preserv'd
The chain unbroken upward, to the realms
Of incorporeal life? those realms of bliss,
Where death hath no dominion? Grant a make
Half-mortal, half-immortal; earthy, part;
And part ethereal; grant the soul of man
Eternal; or in man the series ends.
Wide yawns the gap; connexion is no more;
Checkt reason halts; her next step wants support;
Striving to climb, she tumbles from her scheme;
A scheme, analogy pronounc'd so true;
Analogy, man's surest guide below.

Thus far, all nature calls on thy belief.
And will Lorenzo, careless of the call,
False attestation on all nature charge,
Rather than violate his league with death?
Renounce his reason, rather than renounce
The dust belov'd, and run the risk of heav'n!

O what indignity to deathless souls!
What treason to the majesty of man!
Of man immortal! hear the lofty style:
• If so decreed, th'Almighty will be done.
• Let earth dissolve, yon pond'rous orbs descend,
• And grind us into dust: the soul is safe;
• The man emerges; mounts above the wreck,
• As tow'ring flame from nature's fun'ral pyre;
• O'er devastation, as a gainer, smiles;
• His charter, his inviolable rights,
• Well-pleas'd to learn from thunder's impotence,
• Death's pointless darts, and hell's defeated storms.'

But these chimeras touch not thee, Lorenzo!
The glories of the world, thy sev'nfold shield.
Other ambition than of crowns in air,
And superlunary felicities,
Thy bosom warm. I'll cool it, if I can;
And turn those glories that enchant, against thee.
What ties thee to this life, proclaims the next.
If wise, the cause that wounds thee is thy cure.

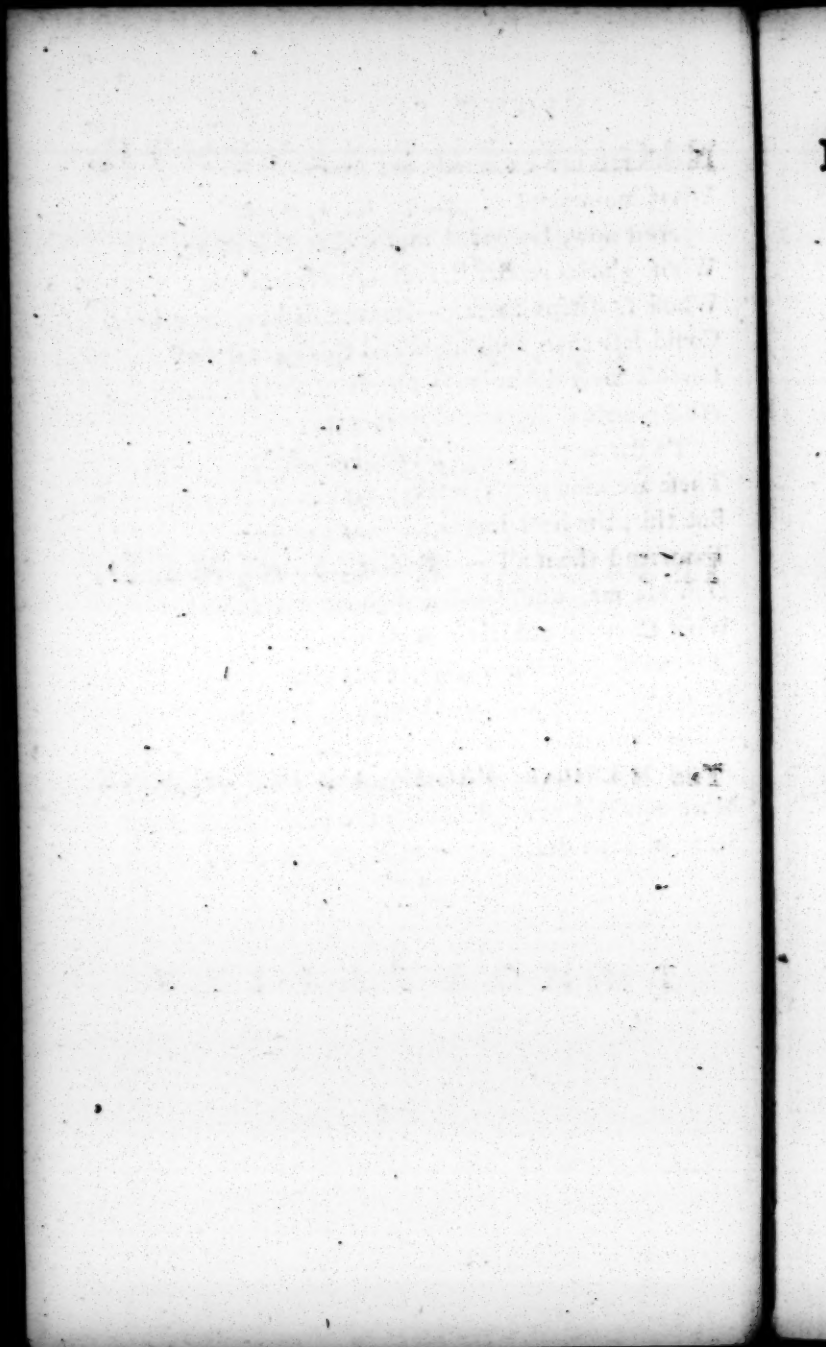
Come, my ambitious! let us mount together,
(To mount Lorenzo never can refuse;)
And from the clouds, where pride delights to dwell,
Look down on earth.—What seest thou? wond'rous
things!

Terrestrial wonders, that eclipse the skies.
What lengths of labour'd lands! what loaded seas!
Loaded by man, for pleasure, wealth, or war!
Seas, winds, and planets, into service brought,
His art acknowledge, and promote his ends.

Nor can th' eternal rocks his will withstand;
What levell'd mountains! and what list'd vales!
O'er vales and mountains sumptuous cities swell,
And gild our landscapes with their glitt'ring spires.
Some 'mid the wond'ring waves majestic rise;
And Neptune holds a mirror to their charms.
Far greater still! (what cannot mortal might?)
See, wide dominions ravish'd from the deep!
The narrow'd deep with indignation foams.
Or southward turn; to delicate, and grand,
The finer arts there ripen in the sun.
How the tall temples, as to meet their gods,
Ascend the skies! the proud triumphal arch
Shews us half-heav'n beneath its ample bend.
How thro' mid air, here, streams are taught to flow;
Whole rivers, there, lay'd by in basons, sleep.
Here, plains turn oceans; there, vast oceans join
Thro' kingdoms channell'd deep from shore to shore;
And chang'd creation takes its face from man.
Beats thy brave breast for formidable scenes,
Where fame and empire wait upon the sword?
See fields in blood; hear naval thunders rise;
Britannia's voice! that awes the world to peace.
How yon enormous mole projecting breaks
The mid-sea, furious waves! their roar amidst,
Out-speaks the Deity, and says, 'O main!
' Thus far, nor farther; new restraints obey.'
Earth's disembowel'd! measur'd are the skies!
Stars are detected in their deep recess!
Creation widens! vanquish'd nature yields!

Her secrets are extorted! art prevails!
What monument of genius, spirit, power!
And now, Larentia! raptur'd at this scene,
Whose glories render heaven superfluous! say,
Whose footsteps these?—Immortals have been here.
Could less than souls immortal this have done?
Earth's cover'd o'er with proofs of souls immortal;
And proofs of immortality forgot.

To flatter thy grand foible, I confess,
These are ambition's works: and these are great:
But this, the least immortal souls can do;
Transcend them all—But what can these transcend?
Dost ask me, what?—One sigh for the distressed.
What then for infidels? A deeper sigh.
'Tis moral grandeur makes the mighty man:
How little they, who think aught great below?
All our ambitions death defeats, but one;
And that it crowns—Here cease we: but, ere long,
More pow'rful proof shall take the field against thee,
Stronger than death, and smiling at the tomb.



NIGHT THE SEVENTH.

BEING THE

SECOND PART

OF THE

INFIDEL RECLAIMED.

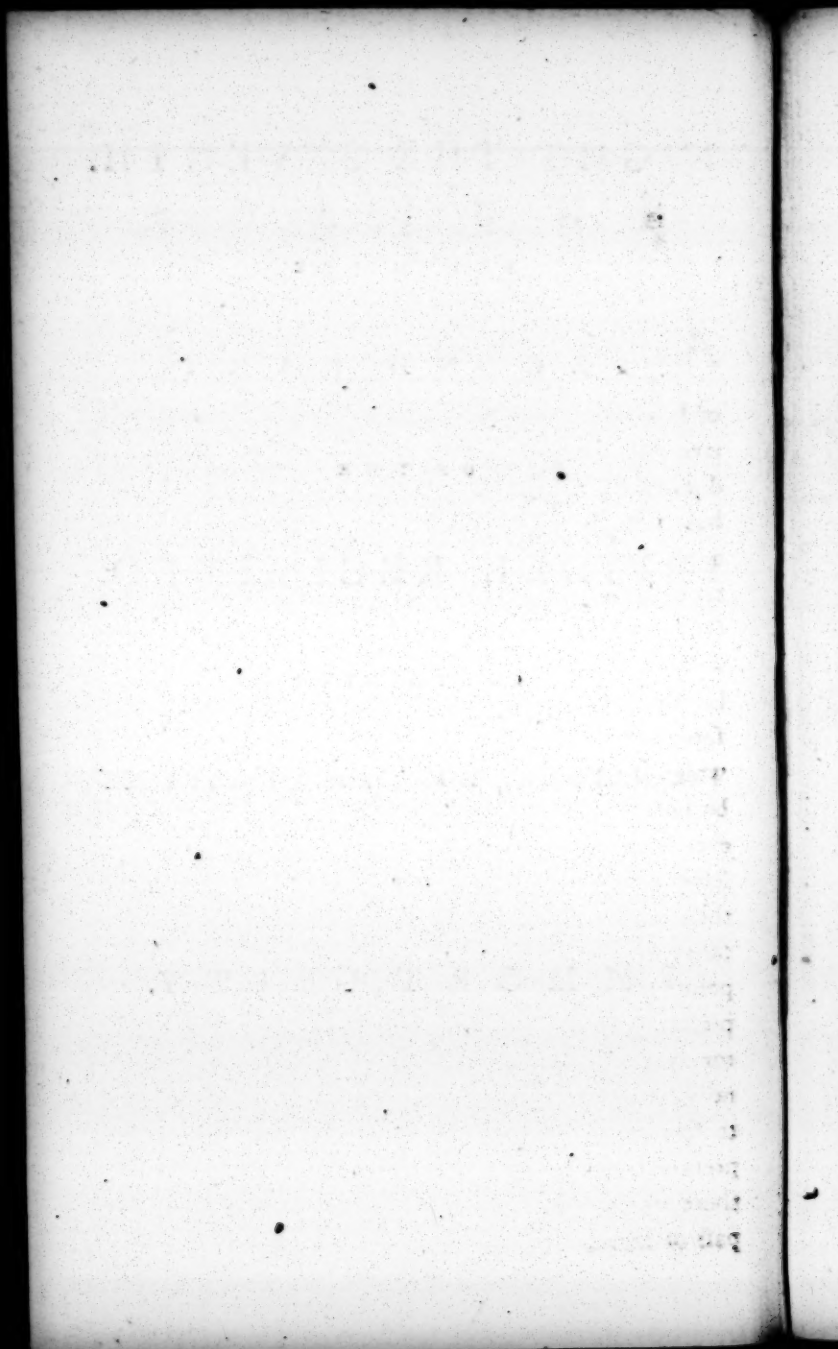
CONTAINING

THE NATURE, PROOF, AND IMPORTANCE

OF

IMMORTALITY.

P 2



P R E F A C E.

AS we are at war with the power, it were well if we were at war with the manners of France. A land of levity, is a land of guilt. A serious mind is the native soil of every virtue: and the single character that does true honour to mankind. The soul's immortality has been the favourite theme with the serious of all ages. Nor is it strange; it is a subject by far the most interesting and important, that can enter the mind of man. Of highest moment this subject always was, and always will be. Yet this its highest moment seems to admit of increase. at this day: a sort of occasional importance is superadded to the natural weight of it; if that opinion which is advanced in the preface to the preceding night be just. It is there supposed, that all our infidels, whatever scheme, for argument's sake, and to keep themselves in countenance, they patronize, are betray'd into their deplorable error, by some doubt of their immortality, at the bottom. And the more I consider this point, the more I am persuaded of the truth of that opinion. Tho' the distrust of a futurity is a strange error: yet it is an error into which bad men may naturally be distressed. For it is impossible to bid defiance to final ruin, without some refuge in imagination. some presumption of escape. And what presumption is there? there are but two in nature; and two, within the compass of human thought. And these are,— That either

GOD will not, or can not punish. Considering the divine attributes, the first is too gross to be digested by our strongest wishes. And since omnipotence is as much a divine attribute as holiness, that GOD cannot punish, is as absurd a supposition, as the former, GOD certainly can punish, as long as wicked men exist. In non-existence, therefore, is their only refuge; and, consequently, non-existence is their strongest wish. And strong wishes have a strange influence on our opinions; they bias the judgment, in a manner, almost incredible. And since on this member of their alternative, there are some very small appearances in their favour, and none at all on the other, they catch at this reed, they lay hold on this chimera, to save themselves from the shock, and horror, of an immediate, and absolute despair.

On reviewing my subject, by the light which this argument and others of like tendency, throw upon it, I was more inclin'd than ever to pursue it, as it appear'd to me to strike directly at the main root of all our infidelity. In the following pages, it is accordingly, pursued at large; and some arguments for immortality, new (at least to me,) are ventured on in them. There also the writer has made an attempt to set the gross absurdities and horrors of annihilation in a fuller and more affecting view, than is (I think) to be met with elsewhere.

The gentleman, for whose sake this attempt was chiefly made, professes great admiration for the wisdom of heathen antiquity: what pity 'tis, they are not sin-

cere! if they were sincere, how would it mortify them to consider, with what contempt, and abhorrence, their notions would have been received, by those whom they so much admire? what degree of contempt, and abhorrence, would fall to their share, may be conjectured by the following matter of fact (in my opinion) extremely memorable. Of all their heathen worthies, Socrates ('tis well known) was the most guarded, dispassionate, and composed: yet this great master of temper was angry; and angry at his last hour; and angry with his friend; and angry for what deserv'd acknowledgment; angry, for a right and tender instance of true friendship towards him. Is not this surprising? what could be the cause? the cause was for his honour; it was a truly noble, tho', perhaps, a too punctilious, regard for immortality: for his friend asking him, with such an affectionate concern as became a friend, 'Where he should deposite his remains?' it was resented by Socrates, as implying a dishonourable supposition, that he could be so mean, as to have regard for any thing, even in himself, that was not immortal.

This fact well consider'd, would make our infidels withdraw their admiration from Socrates; or make them endeavour, by their imitation of this illustrious example, to share his glory: and, consequently, it would incline them to peruse the following pages with candor and impartiality: which is all I desire; and that, for their sakes: for I am persuaded, that an unprejudiced infidel must, necessarily, receive some advantageous impressions from them.

July 7, 1744.

C O N T E N T S

OF THE

SEVENTH NIGHT.

IN the sixth Night arguments were drawn from NATURE, in proof of immortality. Here, others are drawn from MAN: from his discontent, p. 179; from his passions and powers, 180; from the gradual growth of reason, 180, 181; from his fear of death, 181; from the nature of hope, 181, 182; and of virtue, 182 &c from knowledge and love, as being the most essential properties of the soul, 186, 187; from the order of creation, 187, 188; from the nature of ambition, 189. &c avarice, 193; pleasure, 194. A digression on the grandeur of the passions, 195. Immortality alone renders our present state intelligible, 196. An objection from the Stoics disbelief of immortality, answered, 196. 197. Endless questions unresolvable, but on supposition of our immortality, 198, 199. The natural, most melancholy, and pathetic complaint of a worthy man under the persuasion of no futurity, 200, &c The gross absurdities and horrors of annihilation urg'd home on Lorenzo, 205, &c The soul's vast importance, 211, &c from whence it arises, 214, 215. The difficulty of being an infidel, 216, the infamy, 216, 217, the cause, 218, and the character, 218, of an infidel state. What true free-thinking is, 219, 220. The necessary punishment of the false, 221. Man's

ruin is from himself, *ibid.* An infidel accuses himself of guilt, and hypocrisy; and that of the worst sort; 222. His obligations to Christians, 223. What danger he incurs by virtue, 223. Vice recommended to him, 224. His high pretences to virtue, and benevolence, exploded, *ibid.* The conclusion, on the nature of faith 225. Reason, 226; and hope, 226, 227; with an apology for this attempt, 227.

THE
COMPLAINT

NIGHT THE SEVENTH.

HEAVERN gives the needful, but neglected, call.
What day, what hour, but knocks at human hearts,
To wake the soul to sense of future scenes?
Deaths stand, like Mercurys, in ev'ry way;
And kindly point us to our journey's end.
Pope, who couldst make immortals! art thou dead!
I give thee joy: nor will I take my leave;
So soon to follow. Man but dives in death;
Dives from the sun, in fairer day to rise;
The grave, his subterranean road to bliss.
Yes, infinite indulgence plann'd it so:
Thro' various parts our glorious story runs;
Time gives the preface, endless age unrolls
The volume (ne'er unroll'd) of human fate.
This, earth and skies * already have proclaim'd.
The world's a prophecy of worlds to come;
And who, what God foretells (who speaks in things,
Still louder than in words) shall dare deny?
If nature's arguments appear too weak,
Turn a new leaf, and stronger read in man.
If man sleeps on, untaught by what he sees,

* Night the Sixth.

Can he prove infidel to what he feels ?
 He, whose blind thought, futurity denies,
 Unconscious bears, Bellerophon ! like thee,
 His own indictment ; he condemns himself ;
 Who reads his bosom, reads immortal life ;
 Or, nature, there, imposing on her sons,
 Has written fables ; man was made a lye.

Why discontent for ever harbour'd there ?
 Incurable consumption of our peate !
 Resolve me, why, the cottager, and king,
 He whom sea-fever'd realms obey, and he
 Who steals his whole dominion from the waste,
 Repelling winter blasts with mud and straw,
 Disquieted alike, draw sigh for sigh,
 In fate so distant, in complaint so near ?

Is it, that things terrestrial can't content ?
 Deep in rich pasture, will thy flocks complain ?
 Not so ; but to their master is deny'd
 To share their sweet serene. Man, ill at ease,
 In this, not his own place, this foreign field,
 Where nature fodders him with other food,
 Than was ordain'd his cravings to suffice,
 Poor in abundance, famish'd at a feast,
 Sighs on for something more, when most enjoy'd.
 Is heav'n then kinder to thy flocks than thee ?
 Not so ; thy pasture richer, but remote ;
 In part, remote ; for that remoter part
 Man bleats from instinct, tho', perhaps, debauch'd
 By sense, his reason sleeps, nor dreams the cause.
 The cause how obvious, when his reason wakes !

His grief is but his grandeur in disguise;
And discontent is immortality.

Shall sons of ether, shall the blood of heav'n,
Set up their hopes on earth, and stable here,
With brutal acquiescence in the mine?
Lorenzo! no! they shall be nobly pain'd;
The glorious foreigners, distant, shall sigh
On thrones; and thou congratulate the sigh:
Man's misery declares him born for bliss;
His anxious heart asserts the truth I sing,
And gives the sceptic in his head the lie.

Our heads, our hearts, our passions, and our powers,
Speak the same language; call us to the skies:
Unripen'd these, in this inclement clime,
Scarce rise above conjecture, and misdeed;
And for this land of trifles those too strong
Tumultuous rise, and tempest human life:
What prize on earth can pay us for the storm?
Meet objects for our passions heav'n ordained,
Objects that challenge all their fire, and leave
No fault, but in defect: blest heav'n! wert
A bounded order for unbounded bliss;
O for a bliss unbounded! far beneath
A soul immortal, is a mortal joy.
Nor are our powers to perish immature;
But, after feeble effort here, beneath
A brighter sun, and in a nobler soil,
Transplanted from this sublunary bed,
Shall flourish fair, and put forth all their bloom.

Reason progressive, instinct is complete;

Swift instinct leaps; slow reason feebly climbs;
 Brutes soon their zenith reach; their little all
 Flows in at once; in ages they no more
 Could know, or do, or covet, or enjoy.
 Were man to live coëval with the sun,
 The patriarch-pupil would be learning still;
 Yet, dying, leave his lesson half-unlearned.
 Men perish in advance, as if the sun
 Should set e'er noon, in eastern oceans drown'd;
 If fit, with dim, illustrious to compare,
 The sun's meridian, with the soul of man.
 To man, why, stepdame nature! so severe?
 Why thrown aside thy master-piece half-wrought,
 While meaner efforts thy last hand enjoy?
 Or, if abortively poor man must die,
 Nor reach, what reach he might, why die in dread?
 Why curst with foresight & wise to misery?
 Why of his proud prerogative the prey?
 Why less pre-eminent in rank, than pain?
 His immortality alone can tell;
 Full ample fund to balance all amiss,
 And turn the scale in favour of the just!

His immortality alone can solve
 That darkest of enigmas, human hope;
 Of all the darkest, if at death we die.
 Hope, eager hope, th' assassin of our joy,
 All present blessings treading under-foot,
 Is scarce a milder tyrant than despair.
 With no past toils content, still planning new,
 Hope turns us o'er to death alone for ease,

182 THE COMPLAINT:

Possession, why, more tasteless than pursuit?
 Why is a wish far dearer than a crown?
 That wish accomplish'd, why, the grave of bliss?
 Because, in the great future bury'd deep,
 Beyond our plans of empire, and renown,
 Lies all that man with ardor should pursue;
 And he who made him, bent him to the right.

Man's heart th'ALMIGHTY to the future sets,
 By secret and inviolable springs;
 And makes his hope his sublunary joy.
 Man's heart eats all things, and is hungry still;
 'More, more!' the glutton cries: for something new
 So rages appetite, if man can't mount,
 He will descend. He starves on the possess.
 Hence, the world's master, from ambition's spire,
 In Caprea plung'd; and div'd beneath the brute.
 In that rank sty why wallow'd empire's son
 Supreme? because he could no higher fly;
 His riot was ambition in despair.

Old Rome consulted birds; Lorenzo! thou
 With more success, the flight of hope survey;
 Of restless hope, for ever on the wing.
 High-perch'd o'er ev'ry thought that falcon sits,
 To fly at all that rises in her sight;
 And, never stooping, but to mount again
 Next moment, she betrays her aim's mistake,
 And owns her quarry lodg'd beyond the grave.

There should it fail us (it must fail us there,
 If being fails) more mournful riddles rise,
 And virtue vies with hope in mystery.

Why virtue? where its praise, its being fled?
 Virtue is true self-interest pursu'd:
 What true self-interest of quite-mortal man?
 To close with all that makes him happy here.
 If vice (as sometimes) is our friend on earth,
 Then vice is virtue; 'tis our sov'reign good.
 In self-applause is virtue's golden prize;
 No self-applause attends it on thy scheme:
 Whence self-applause? from conscience of the right.
 And what is right, but means of happiness?
 No means of happiness when virtue yields;
 That basis failing, falls the building too,
 And lays in ruin ev'ry virtuous joy.

The rigid guardian of a blameless heart,
 So long rever'd, so long reputed wise,
 Is weak; with rank knight-errantries o'er-run.
 Why beats thy bosom with illustrious dreams
 Of self-exposure, laudable, and great?
 Of gallant enterprize, and glorious death?
 Die for thy country?—thou romantic fool!
 Seize, seize the plank thyself, and let her sink:
 Thy country! what to thee?—the Godhead; what
 (I speak with awe?) tho' he should bid thee bleed?
 If, with thy blood, thy final hope is spilt,
 Nor can omnipotence reward the blow,
 Be deaf; preserve thy being disobey.

Nor is it disobedience: know, Lorenzo!
 Whate'er th' ALMIGHTY's subsequent command,
 His first command is this:—'Man, love thyself.'
 In this alone, free agents are not free.

Existence is the basis, bliss the prize;
 If virtue costs existence, 'tis a crime;
 Bold violation of our law supreme.
 Black suicide; tho' nations, which consult
 Their gain, at thy expence, resound applause.

Since virtue's recompence is doubtful, here,
 If man dies wholly, well may we demand,
 Why is man suffer'd to be good in vain?
 Why to be good in vain, is man enjoin'd?
 Why to be good in vain, is man betray'd?
 Betray'd by traitors lodg'd in his own breast,
 By sweet complacencies from virtue felt?
 Why whispers nature lyes on virtue's part?
 Or if blind instinct (which assumes the name
 Of sacred conscience) plays the fool in man,
 Why reason made accomplice in the cheat?
 Why are the wisest loudest in her praise?
 Can man by reason's beam be led astray?
 Or, at his peril imitate his God?
 Since virtue sometimes ruins us on earth,
 Or both are true; or, man survives the grave.

Or man survives the grave, or own, Lorenzo,
 Thy boast supreme, a wild absurdity.
 Dauntless thy spirit; cowards are thy scorn.
 Grant man immortal, and thy scorn is just.
 The man immortal, rationally brave,
 Dares rush on death—because we cannot die.
 But if man loses all, when life is lost,
 He lives a coward, or a fool expires.
 A daring infidel (and such there are,

From pride, example, lucre, rage, revenge,
 Of pure heroical defect of thought)
 Of all earth's madmen, most deserves a chain.?

When to the grave we follow the renown'd
 For valour, virtue, science, all we love,
 And all we praise; for worth, whose noon-tide beam,
 Enabling us to think in higher style,
 Mends our ideas of æthereal powers;
 Dream we, that lustre of the moral world
 Goes out in stench, and rottenness the close?
 Why was he wise to know, and warm to praise,
 And strenuous to transcribe, in human life,
 The mind ALMIGHTY? could it be, that fate,
 Just when the lineaments began to shine,
 And down the DEITY should snatch the draught,
 With night eternal blot it out, and give
 The skies alarm, lest angels too might die?

If human souls, why not angelic too
 Extinguish'd? and a solitary God,
 O'er ghastly ruin, frowning from his throne?
 Shall we this moment gaze on God in man?
 The next, lose man for ever in the dust?
 From dust we disengage, or man mistakes;
 And there, where least his judgment fears a flaw,
 Wisdom and worth, how boldly he commends!
 Wisdom and worth, are sacred names: rever'd,
 Where not embrac'd, applauded! deify'd!
 Why not compassion'd too? If spirits die,
 Both are calamities, inflicted both,
 To make us but more wretched: Wisdom's eye

Acute, for what? to spy more miseries;
 And worth, so recompens'd, new-points their stings.
 Or man surmounts the grave, or gain is loss,
 And worth exalted humbles us the more.
 Thou wilt not patronize a scheme that makes
 Weakness, and vice, the refuge of mankind.

'Has virtue, then, no joys?'—yes, joys dear bought.
 Talk ne'er so long, in this imperfect state,
 Virtue, and vice, are at eternal war.
 Virtue's a combat; and who fights for nought?
 Or for precarious, or for small reward?
 Who virtue's self-reward so loud resound,
 Would take degrees angelic here below,
 And virtue, while they compliment, betray,
 By feeble motives, and unfaithful guards.
 The crown, th' unsfading crown, her soul inspires:
 'Tis that, and that alone, can countervail
 The body's treach'ries, and the world's assaults:
 On earth's poor pay our famish'd virtue dies.
 Truth incontestible! in spite of all
 A BAYLE has preach'd, or a Y——— believ'd.

In man the more we dive, the more we see
 Heav'n's signet stamping an immortal make.
 Dive to the bottom of his soul, the base
 Sustaining all; what find we? knowledge, love,
 As light, and heat, essential to the sun,
 These to the soul. And why, if souls expire?
 How little lovely here! how little known?
 Small knowledge we dig up with endless toil;
 And love, untaught, may purchase perfect hate.

NIGHT THE SEVENTH. 187

Why starv'd, on earth, our angel-appetites;
 While brutal are indulg'd their salsome fill?
 Were then capacities divine conferr'd,
 As a mock diadem, in savage sport,
 Rank insult of our pompous poverty,
 Which reaps but pain, from seeming claims so fair?
 In future age lies no redress? and shuts
 Eternity the door on our complaint?
 If so, for what strange ends were mortals made!
 The worst to wallow, and the best to weep;
 The man who merits most, must most complain:
 Can we conceive a disregard in heav'n,
 What the worst perpetrate, or best endure?

This cannot be. To love, and know, in man
 Is boundless appetite, and boundless power;
 And these demonstrate boundless objects too.
 Objects, pow'rs, appetites, heav'n suits in all;
 Nor, nature thro', e'er violates this sweet,
 Eternal concord, on her tuneful string.
 Is man the sole exception from her laws?
 Eternity struck off from human hope,
 (I speak with truth, but veneration too)
 Man is a monster, the reproof of heaven,
 A stain, a dark impenetrable cloud
 On nature's beauteous aspect; and deforms,
 (Amazing blot!) deforms her with her lord.
 If such is man's allotment, what is heaven?
 Or own the soul immortal, or blaspheme.

Or own the soul immortal, or invert
 All order, Go, mock majesty! go, man!

And bow to thy superiors of the stall;
Thro' ev'ry scene of sense superior far:
They graze the turf untill'd; they drink the stream
Unbrew'd, and ever full, and unembitter'd
With doubts, fears, fruitless hopes, regrets, despairs;
Mankind's peculiar! reason's precious dower!
No foreign clime they ransack for their robes;
Nor brothers cite to the litigious bar;
Their good is good intire, unmix'd, unmarr'd;
They find a paradise in ev'ry field,
On boughs forbidden where no curses hang:
Their ill no more than strikes the sense; unstretcht
By previous dread, or murmur in the rear:
When the worst comes, it comes unfear'd; one stroke
Begins, and ends, their woe; they die but once;
Blest. incommunicable privilege! for which
Proud man, who rules the globe, and reads the stars,
Philosopher, or hero, fights in vain.

Account for this prerogative in brutes.

No day, no glimpse of day, to solve the knot,
But what beams on it from eternity.
O sole and sweet solution! that unties
The difficult, and softens the severe;
The cloud on nature's beauteous face dispels;
Restores bright order; casts the brute beneath;
And re-inthrones us in supremacy
Of joy, ev'n here: admit immortal life,
And virtue is knight-errantry no more;
Each virtue brings in hand a golden dower,
Far richer in reversion; hope exults;

NIGHT THE SEVENTH.

189

And tho' much bitter in our cup is thrown,
Predominates, and gives the taste of heaven.
O wherfore is the DEITY so kind ?
Astonishing beyond astonishment !

Heav'n our reward—for heav'n enjoy'd below.

Still unsubdu'd thy stubborn heart ?—For there
The traitor lurks, who doubts the truth I sing.
Reason is guiltless ; will alone rebels.

What, in that stubborn heart, if I should find
New, unexpected witnesses against thee !

Ambition, pleasure, and the love of gain !

Canst thou suspect, that these, which make the soul :

The slave of earth, should own her heir of heav'n ?

Canst thou suspect what makes us disbelieve
Our immortality, should prove it sure ?

First, then, ambition summon to the bar.

Ambition's shame, extravagance, disgust,

And inextinguishable nature, speak.

Each much deposes ; hear them in their turn.

Thy soul, how passionately fond of fame !

How anxious, that fond passion to conceal !

We blush, detested in designs on praise,

Tho' for best deeds, and from the best of men ;

And why ? because immortal. Art divine

Has made the body tutor to the soul ;

Heav'n kindly gives our blood a moral flow ;

Bids it ascend the glowing cheek, and there

Upbraid that little heart's inglorious aim,

Which stoops to court a character from man ;

While o'er us, in tremendous judgment sit

Far more than man, with endless praise, and blame.

Ambition's boundless appetite out-speaks
The verdict of its shame. When souls take fire
At high presumptions of their own desert,
One age is poor applause; the mighty shout,
The thunder by the living few begun,
Late time must echo; worlds unborn, resound.
We wish our names eternally to live:
Wild dream! which ne'er had haunted human thought,
Had not our natures been eternal too.
Instinct points out an int'rest in hereafter;
But our blind reason sees not where it lies;
Or, seeing, gives the substance for the shade.

Fame is the shade of immortality,
And in itself a shadow. Soon as caught,
Contemn'd; it shrinks to nothing in the grasp:
Consult th' ambitious, 'tis ambition's cure.

'And is this all?' cry'd CAESAR at his height,
Disgusted. This third proof ambition brings
Of immortality. The first in fame,
Observe him near, your envy will abate:
Sham'd at the disproportion vast, between
The passion, and the purchase, he will sigh
At such success, and blush at his renown.
And why? because far richer prize invites
His heart; far more illustrious glory calls;
It calls in whispers, yet the dearest hear.

And can ambition a fourth proof supply?
It can, and stronger than the former three;
Yet quite o'erlook'd by some reputed wise.

Tho' disappointments in ambition pain,
 And tho' success disgusts; yet still, Lorenzo!
 In vain we strive to pluck it from our hearts;
 By nature planted for the noblest ends.
 Absurd the fam'd advice to Pyrrhus giv'n,
 More prais'd, than ponder'd; specious, but unsound:
 Sooner that hero's sword the world had quell'd,
 Than reason, his ambition. Man must soar.
 An obstinate activity within,
 An insuppressive spring, will toss him up
 In spite of fortune's load. Not kings alone,
 Each Villager has his ambition too;
 No Sultan prouder than his fetter'd slave:
 Slaves build their little Babylons of straw,
 Echo the proud Assyrian, in their hearts,
 And cry,—“ Behold the wonders of my might!”
 And why? because immortal as their lord;
 And souls immortal must forever heave
 At something great, the glitter, or the gold;
 The praise of mortals, or the praise of heaven.

Nor absolutely vain is human praise,
 When human is supported by divine.
 I'll introduce Lorenzo to himself:
 Pleasure and pride (bad masters!) share our hearts.
 As love of pleasure is ordain'd to guard
 And feed our bodies, and extend our race;
 The love of praise is planted to protect,
 And propagate the glories of the mind.
 What is it, but the love of praise, inspires,
 Matures, refines, embellishes, exalts,

Earth's happiness? from that, the delicate;
 The grand, the marvellous, of civil life,
 Want and convenience, under-workers, lay
 The basis, on which love of glory builds.
 Nor is thy life, O virtue! less in debt
 To praise, thy secret stimulating friend.
 Were men not proud, what merit should we miss!
 Pride made the virtues of the Pagan world.
 Praise is the salt that seasons right to man,
 And whets his appetite for moral good.
 Thirst of applause is virtue's second guard;
 Reason, her first; but reason wants an aid;
 Our private reason is a flatterer;
 Thirst of applause calls public judgment in,
 To poise our own, to keep an even scale,
 And give endanger'd virtue fairer play.

Here a fifth proof arises, stronger still:
 Why this so nice construction of our hearts?
 These delicate moralities of sense;
 This constitutional reserve of aid
 To succour virtue, when our reason fails;
 If virtue, kept alive by care and toil,
 And, oft, the mark of injuries on earth,
 When labour'd to maturity (its bill
 Of disciplines, and pains, unpaid) must die?
 Why freighted-rich, to dash against a rock?
 Were man to perish when most fit to live,
 O how mispent were all these stratagems,
 By skill divine inwoven in our frame?
 Where are heav'n's holiness and mercy fled?

Laughs heav'n, at once, at virtue, and at man?
If not, why that discourag'd, this destroy'd?

Thus far ambition. What says avarice?
This her chief maxim, which has long been thine:
'The wise and wealthy are the same'—I grant it.
To store up treasure, with incessant toil,
This is man's province, this his highest praise.
To this great end keen instinct stings him on.
To guide that instinct, reason is thy charge;
'Tis thine to tell us where true treasure lies;
But, reason failing to discharge her trust,
Or to the deaf discharging it in vain,
A blunder follows; and blind industry,
Gall'd by the spur, but stranger to the course,
(The course where stakes of more than gold are won)
O'erloading, with the cares of distant age,
The jaded spirits of the present hour,
Provides for an eternity below.

'Thou shalt not covet,' is a wise command;
But bounded to the wealth the sun surveys;
Look farther, the command stands quite revers'd,
And av'rice is a virtue most divine.
Is faith a refuge for our happiness?
Most sure: and is it not for reason too?
Nothing this world unriddles, but the next.
Whence inextinguishable thirst of gain?
From inextinguishable life in man:
Man, if not meant, by worth, to reach the skies,
Had wanted wing to fly so far in guilt.
Sour grapes, I grant, ambition, avarice:

Yet still their root is immortality.

These its wild growths so bitter, and so base,
(Pain and reproach ! religion can reclaim,
Refine, exalt, throw down their pois'nous lee,
And make them sparkle in the bowl of bliss.

See, the third witness laughs at bliss remote,
And falsely promises an Eden here :
Truth he shall speak for once, tho' prone to lye,
A common cheat, and pleasure is her name.
To pleasure never was Lorenzo deaf ;
Then hear her now, now first thy real friend.

Since nature made us not more fond than proud
Of happiness (whence hypocrites in joy !
Makers of mirth ! artificers of smiles !)
Why should the joy most poignant sense affords,
Burn us with blushes, and rebuke our pride ?
Those heav'n-born blushes tell us man descends,
Ev'n in the zenith of his earthly bliss :
Should reason take her infidel repose,
This honest instinct speaks our lineage high ;
This instinct calls on darkness to conceal
Our rapturous relation to the stalls.
Our glory covers us with noble shame,
And he that's unconfounded, is unmann'd.
The man that blushes, is not quite a brute.
Thus far with thee, Lorenzo ! will I close ;
Pleasure is good, and man for pleasure made ;
But pleasure full of glory, as of joy ;
Pleasure, which neither blushes, nor expires.

The witnesses are heard ; the cause is o'er :

Let conscience file the sentence in her court,
 Dearer than deeds that half a realm convey:
 Thus, seal'd by truth, th' authentic record runs.

- Know, all; know, infidels,—unapt to know!
- 'Tis immortality your nature solves;
- 'Tis immortality decyphers man,
- And opens all the myst'ries of his make.
- Without it, half his instincts are a riddle;
- Without it, all his virtues are a dream.
- His very crimes attest his dignity;
- His sateless thirst of pleasure, gold, and fame,
- Declares him born for blessings infinite:
- What less than infinite, makes un-absurd
- Passions, which all on earth but more inflames?
- Fierce passions, so mis-measur'd to this scene,
- Stretch'd out, like eagles wings, beyond our nest,
- Far, far beyond the worth of all below,
- For earth too large, presage a nobler flight,
- And evidence our title to the skies.'

Ye gentle theologues, of calmer kind!
 Whose constitution dictates to your pen,
 Who, cold yourselves, think ardor comes from hell!
 Think not our passions from corruption sprung,
 Though to corruption now they lend their wings;
 That is their mistress, not their mother. All
 (And justly) reason deem divine: I see,
 I feel a grandeur in the passions too,
 Which speaks their high descent, and glorious end;
 Which speaks them rays of an eternal fire.
 In paradise itself they burnt as strong,

Ere Adam fell; tho' wiser in their aim.
 Like the proud eastern, struck by Providence,
 What tho' our passions are run mad, and stoop
 With low terrestrial appetite, to graze
 On trash, on toys, dethron'd from high desire?
 Yet still, thro' their disgrace, a feeble ray
 Of greatness shines, and tells us whence they fell:
 But these (like that fallen monarch when reclaim'd)
 When reason moderates the reign right,
 Shall re-ascend, re-mount their former sphere,
 Where once they soar'd illustrious; ere seduc'd
 By wanton Eve's debauch, to stroll on earth,
 And set the sublunary world on fire.

But grant their phrenzy lasts; their phrenzy falls
 To disappoint one providential end,
 For which heaven blew up ardor in our hearts:
 Were reason silent. boundless passion speaks
 A future scene of boundless objects too,
 And brings glad tidings of eternal day.
 Eternal day! 'tis that enlightens all;
 And all, by that enlighten'd, proves it sure.
 Consider man as an immortal being,
 Intelligible all; and all is great;
 A crystalline transparency prevails,
 And strikes full lustre, thro' the human sphere:
 Consider man as mortal, all is dark,
 And wretched; reason weeps at the survey.

The learn'd Lorenzo cries, 'and let her weep,
 ' Weak, modern reason: ancient times were wise.
 ' Authority, that venerable guide,

' Stands on my part ; the fam'd Athenian porch
 ' (And who for wisdom so renown'd as they ?
 ' Deny'd this immortality to man.'

I grant it ; but affirm, they prov'd it too.
 A riddle this !—have patience ; I'll explain.

What noble vanities, what moral flights,
 Glitt'ring thro' their romantic wisdom's page,
 Make us, at once, despise them, and admire ?
 Fable is flat to these high-season'd fires :
 They leave th' extravagance of song below.

' Flesh shall not feel or, feeling, shall enjoy
 ' The dagger or the rack : to them, alike
 ' A bed of roses, or the burning bull.'

In men exploding all beyond the grave,
 Strange doctrine, this ! As doctrine, it was strange ;
 But not, as prophecy ; for such it prov'd,
 And, to their own amazement, was fulfill'd :
 They feign'd a firmness Christians need not feign,
 The Christian truly triumph'd in the flame :
 The Stoic saw, in double wonder lost,
 Wonder at them and wonder at himself,
 To find the bold adventures of his thought
 Not bold, and that he strove to lye in vain.

Whence, then, those thoughts ? those tow'ring
 thoughts, that flew

Such monstrous heights !—From instinct, and from pride.
 The glorious instinct of a deathless soul,
 Confus'dly conscious of her dignity,
 Suggested truths they could not understand.
 In lust's dominion, and in passion's storm,

Truth's system broken, scatter'd fragments lay,
 As light in chaos, glimm'ring thro' the gloom:
 Smit with the pomp of lofty sentiments,
 Pleas'd pride proclaim'd, what reason disbeliev'd.
 Pride, like the Delphic priestess, with a swell,
 Rav'd nonsense, destin'd to be future sense,
 When life immortal, in full day, should shine;
 And death's dark shadows fly the gospel fun.
 They spoke, what nothing but immortal souls
 Could speak; and thus the truth they question'd, prov'd,
 Can then absurdities, as well as crimes,
 Speak man immortal? all things speak him so.
 Much has been urg'd; and dost thou call for more?
 Call; and with endless questions be distress'd,
 All unresolvable, if earth is all.

- Why life, a moment; infinite, desire?
- Our wish, eternity? Our home, the grave?
- Heav'n's promise dormant lies in human hope;
- Who wishes life immortal, proves it too.
- Why happiness pursu'd, tho' never found?
- Man's thirst of happiness declares it is
- (For nature never gravitates to nought;)
- That thirst unquencht declares it is not here.
- My Lucia, thy Clarissa, call to thought;
- Why cordial friendship swayed so deep,
- As hearts to pierce at first, at parting, send,
- If friend, and friendship; vanish in an hour?
- Is not this torment in the mask of joy?
- Why by reflection marr'd the joys of sense?
- Why past, and future, prying on our hearts?

- ‘ And putting all our present joys to death ?
- ‘ Why labours reason ? instinct were as well ;
- ‘ Instinct, far better ; what can chuse, can err :
- ‘ O how infallible the thoughtless brute !
- ‘ ’Twere well his holiness were half as sure.
- ‘ Reason with inclination, why at war ?
- ‘ Why sense of guilt ? Why conscience up in arms ?

Conscience of guilt, is prophecy of pain,
 And bosom-counsel to decline the blow.
 Reason with inclination ne’er had jarr’d,
 If nothing future paid forbearance here.
 Thus on—these, and a thousand pleas uncall’d,
 All promise, some ensure, a second scene ;
 Which, were it doubtful, would be dearer far
 Than all things else most certain ; were it false,
 What truth on earth so precious as the lye ?
 This world it gives us, let what will ensue ;
 This world it gives, in that high cordial, hope :
 The future of the present is the soul :
 How this life groans, when sever’d from the next ?
 Poor, mutilated wretch, that disbelieves !
 By dark distrust, his being cut in two,
 In both parts perishes ; life void of joy,
 Sad prelude of eternity in pain !

Couldst thou persuade me, the next life could fail
 Our ardent wishes ; how should I pour out
 My bleeding heart in anguish, new, as deep !
 Oh ! with what thoughts, thy hope, and my despair,
 Abhor’d ANNIHILATION ! blasts the soul,
 And wide extends the bounds of human woe !

Could I believe Lorenzo's system true,
In this black channel would my ravings run.

- Grief from the future borrow'd peace, ere-while.
- The future vanish'd! and the present pain'd!
- Strange import of unprecedented ill!
- Fall, how profound! like LUCIFER's, the fall!
- Unequal fate! his fall without his guilt!
- From where fond hope built her pavilion high,
- The gods among, hurl'd headlong, hurl'd at once.
- To night! to nothing! darker still than night.
- If 'twas a dream, why wake me, my worst foe,
- Lorenzo' boastful of the name of friend!
- O for delusion! O for error still!
- Could vengeance strike much stronger than to plant:
- A thinking being in a world like this,
- Not over-rich before, now beggar'd quite;
- More curst than at the fall? —the sun goes out!
- The thorns shoot up! what thorns in ev'ry thought!
- What sense of better? it imbitters worse.
- Why sense? why life? if but to sigh, then sink
- To what I was! twice nothing! and much woe!
- Woe, from heav'n's bounties! woe from what was
- To flatter most, high intellectual powers. [wont
- Thought, virtue, knowledge! blessings, by thy scheme,
- All poison'd into pains. First, knowledge, once
- My soul's ambition, now her greatest dread.
- To know myself, true wisdom' —No, to shun
- That shocking science, parent of despair!
- Avert thy mirror: If I see I die.
- Know my Creator? climb his blest abode

• By painful speculation, pierce the vale,
 • Dive in his nature, read his attributes,
 • And gaze in admiration — on a foe,
 • Obtruding life, with-holding happiness!
 • From the full rivers that surround his throne,
 • Not letting fall one drop of joy on man;
 • Man gasping for one drop, that he might cease
 • To curse his birth, nor envy reptiles more!
 • Ye sable clouds! ye darkest shades of night!
 • Hide him, for ever hide him, from my thought,
 • Once all my comfort; source, and soul of joy!
 • Now leagu'd with furies, and with * thee, against me.

• Know his achievements? study his renown?
 • Contemplate this amazing universe,
 • Dropt from his hand, with miracles replete!
 • For what? 'mid miracles of nobler name,
 • To find one miracle of misery?
 • To find the being, which alone can know
 • And praise his works, a 'blemish on his praise?
 • Thro' nature's ample range, in thought, to stroll,
 • And start at man, the single mourner there,
 • Breathing high hope! chain'd down to pangs and death!

• Knowing is suff'ring: and shall virtue share
 • The sigh of knowledge?—virtue shares the sigh.
 • By straining up the steep of excellent,
 • By battles fought, and, from temptation, won,
 • What gains she, but the pang of seeing worth,
 • Angelic worth, soon shuff'd in the dark

• Lorenzo.

- With ev'ry vice, and swept to brutal dust?
- Merit is madness; virtue is a crime;
- A crime to reason, if it costs us pain
- Unpaid: what pain, amidst a thousand more,
- To think the most abandon'd. after days
- Of triumph o'er their betters, find in death.
- As soft a pillow, nor make fouler clay!
- Duty! religion!—these, our duty done,
- Imply reward. Religion is mistake.
- Duty!—there's none, but to repel the cheat.
- Ye cheats! away! ye daughters of my pride!
- Who feign yourselves the fav'rites of the skies:
- Ye tow'ring hopes! abortive energies!
- That toss, and struggle, in my lying breast,
- To scale the skies, and build presumptions there,
- As I were heir of an eternity.
- Vain, vain ambitions! trouble me no more.
- Why travel far in quest of sure defeat?
- As bounded as my being, be my wish.
- All is inverted, wisdom is a fool.
- Sense! take the rein; blind passion! drive us on;
- And, ignorance! befriend us on our way;
- Ye new, but truest patrons of our peace!
- Yes; give the pulse full empire; live the brute,
- Since, as the brute we die. The sum of man,
- Of godlike man! to revel, and to rot.
- But not on equal terms with other brutes:
- Their revels a more poignant relish yield,
- And safer too, they never poisons chuse.
- Instinct, than reason, makes more wholesome meals,

- And sends all-marring murmur far away.
- For sensual life they best philosophize ;
- Theirs, that serene, the sages fought in vain :
- 'Tis man alone expostulates with heav'n ;
- His, all the pow'r, and all the cause, to mourn.
- Shall human eyes alone dissolve in tears ?
- And bleed, in anguish, none but human hearts ?
- The wide-stretch'd realm of intellectual woe,
- Surpassing sensual far, is all our own.
- In life so fatally distinguish'd, why
- Cast in one lot, confounded, lump't, in death ?

• Ere yet in being, was mankind in guilt ?

- Why thunder'd this peculiar clause against us,
- All-mortal, and all-wretched !— have the skies
- Reasons of state, their subjects may not scan,
- Nor humbly reason, when they sorely sigh ?
- All-mortal, and all-wretched !— 'tis too much ;
- Unparallel'd in nature : 'tis too much
- On being unrequested at thy hands,
- Omnipotent ! for I see nought but power.

And why see that ? why thought ? to toil, and eat,

- Then make our bed in darkness, needs no thought.
- What superfluities are reas'ning souls !
- Oh give eternity ! or thought destroy.
- But without thought our curse were half-unfelt ;
- Its blunted edge would spare the throbbing heart ;
- And, therefore 'tis bestow'd. I thank thee, reason !
- For aiding life's too small calamities,
- And giving being to the dread of death.
- Such are thy bounties !— Was it then too much

- For me, to trespass on the brutal rights ?
- Too much for heav'n to make one emmet more ?
- Too much for chaos to permit my mass
- A longer stay with essences unwrought,
- Unfashion'd, untormented into man ?
- Wretched preferment to this round of pains !
- Wretched capacity of phrenzy, thought !
- Wretched capacity of dying, life !
- Life, thought, worth, wisdom, all (O foul revolt !)
- Once friends to peace, gone over to the foe.

- Death, then, has chang'd its nature too : O death !
- Come to my bosom, thou best gift of heav'n !
- Best friend of man ! since man is man no more.
- Why in this thorny wilderness so long,
- Since there's no promis'd land's ambrosial bower,
- To pay me with its honey for my stings ?
- If needful to the selfish schemes of heaven
- To sting us sore, why mockt our misery ?
- Why this so sumptuous insult o'er our heads ?
- Why this illustrious canopy display'd ?
- Why so magnificently lodg'd despair ?
- At stated periods, sure returning, roll
- These glorious orbs, that mortals may compute
- Their length of labours, and of pains ; nor lose
- Their misery's full measure ?—Smiles with flowers,
- And fruits, promiscuous, ever-teeming earth,
- That man may languish in luxurious scenes,
- And in an Eden mourn his wither'd joys ?
- Claim earth and skies man's admiration, due
- For such delights ! Blest animals, too wise

- To wonder ; and too happy to complain !
• Our doom decreed demands a mournful scene :
• Why not a dungeon dark, for the condemn'd ?
• Why not the dragon's subterraneous den,
• For man to howl in ? why not his abode
• Of the same dismal colour with his fate ?
• A Thebes, a Babylon, at vast expence
• Of time, toil, treasure, art, for owls and adders,
• As congruous, as, for man, this lofty dome,
• Which prompts proud thought, and kindles high de-
• If, from her humble chamber in the dust, [fire ;
• While proud thought swells, and high desire inflames,
• The poor worm calls us for her inmates there ;
• And, round us, death's inexorable hand
• Draws the dark curtain close ; undrawn no more.
• Undrawn no more !—behind the cloud of death,
• Once, I beheld a sun ; a sun which gild
• That sable cloud, and turn'd it all to gold ;
• How the grave's alter'd ! fathomless, as hell !
• A real hell to those who dreamt of heaven.
• Annihilation ! how it yawns before me !
• Next moment I may drop from thought, from sense,
• The privilege of angels, and of worms,
• An outcast from existence ! and this spirit,
• This all-pervading, this all-conscious soul,
• This particle of energy divine,
• Which travels nature, flies from star to star,
• And visits gods, and emulates their powers,
• For ever is extinguish'd. Horror ! death !
• Death of that death I fearless once survey'd !—

- When horror universal shall descend,
- And heav'n's dark concave urn all human race,
- On that enormous, unrefunding tomb,
- How just this verse! this monumental sigh!
- Beneath the lumber of demolish'd worlds!
- Deep in the rubbish of the gen'ral wreck,
- Swept ignominious to the common mass
- Of matter, never dignify'd with life,
- Here lie proud rationals; the sons of heav'n!
- The lords of earth! the property of worms!
- Beings of yesterday, and no to-morrow!
- Who liv'd in terror, and in pangs expir'd!
- All gone to rot in chaos; or, to make
- Their happy transit into blocks or brutes,
- Nor longer sully their Creator's name.'

Lorenzo! hear, pause, ponder, and pronounce.
 Just is this history? If such is man,
 Mankind's historian, though divine, might weep.
 And dares Lorenzo smile!—I know thee proud;
 For once let pride befriend thee; pride looks pale
 At such a scene, and sighs for something more.
 Amidst thy boasts, presumptions, and displays,
 And art thou then a shadow? less than shade?
 A nothing? less than nothing? to have been,
 And not to be, is lower than unborn.
 Art thou ambitious? why then make the worm
 Thine equal? runs thy taste of pleasure high?
 Why patronize sure death of ev'ry joy?
 Charm riches? why chuse begg'ry in the grave,
 Of ev'ry hope a bankrupt! and for ever?

Ambition, pleasure, avarice, persuade thee
To make that world of glory, rapture, wealth,
They * lately prov'd, thy soul's supreme desire.

What art thou made of? rather how unmade?
Great nature's master-appetite destroy'd!
Is endless life, and happiness despis'd?
Or both wish'd, here, where neither can be found?
Such man's perverse, eternal war with heaven!
Dar'st thou persist? and is there nought on earth,
But a long train of transitory forms,
Rising, and breaking, millions in an hour?
Bubbles of a fantastic deity, blown up
In sport, and then in cruelty destroy'd?
Oh! for what crime, unmerciful Lorenzo!
Destroys thy scheme the whole of human race?
Kind is fell Lucifer, compar'd to thee:
Oh! spare this waste of being half-divine;
And vindicate th' oeconomy of heav'n.

Heav'n is all love; all joy in giving joy:
It never had created, but to bless:
And shall it, then, strike off the list of life,
A being blest, or worthy so to be?
Heav'n starts at an annihilating God.

Is that, all nature starts at, thy desire?
Art such a clod to wish thyself all clay?
What is that dreadful wish? — the dying groan
Of nature, murder'd by the blackest guilt.
What deadly poison has thy nature drank?

• In the Sixth Night.

To nature undebanch'd no shock so great;
Nature's first wish is endless happiness;
Annihilation is an after-thought,
A monstrous wish, unborn till virtue dies.
And, oh! what depth of horror lies inclos'd!
For non-existence no man ever wish'd,
But first, he wish'd the Deity destroy'd.

If so; what words are dark enough to draw
Thy picture true? the darkest are too fair.
Beneath what baleful planet, in what hour
Of desperation, by what fury's aid,
In what infernal posture of the soul,
All hell invited, and all hell in joy
At such a birth, a birth so near of kin,
Did thy foul fancy whelp so black a scheme
Of hopes abortive, faculties half-blown,
And deities begun, reduc'd to dust?

There's nought (thou say'st) but one eternal flux
Of feeble essences, tumultuous driven
Through time's rough billows into night's abyss.
Say, in this rapid tide of human ruin,
Is there no rock, on which man's tossing thought
Can rest from terror, dare his fate survey,
And boldly think it something to be born?
Amid such hourly wrecks of being fair,
Is there no central, all-sustaining base,
All-realizing, all connecting pow'r,
Which, as it call'd forth all things can recall,
And force destruction to refund her spoil?
Command the grave restore her taken prey?

Bid death's dark vale its human harvest yield,
And earth, and ocean, pay their debt of man,
True to the grand deposit trusted there?
Is there no potentate, whose out-stretcht arm,
When rip'ning time calls forth th' appointed hour,
Pluckt from foul devastation's famish'd maw,
Binds present, past and future, to his throne?
His throne, how glorious thus divinely grac'd,
By germinating beings, clust'ring round!
A garland worthy the Divinity!
A throne, by Heav'n's omnipotence in smiles,
Built (like a Pharos tow'ring in the waves)
Amidst immense effusions of his love!
An ocean of communicated bliss!

An all prolific, all-preserving God!
This were a God indeed: — And such is man;
As here presum'd: he rises from his fall.
Think'st thou Omnipotence a naked root,
Each blossom fair of Deity destroy'd?
Nothing is dead; nay, nothing sleeps; each soul,
That ever animanted human clay,
Now wakes; is on the wing: and where, O where,
Will the swarm settle?—when the trumpet's call,
As sounding brass, collects us round Heav'n's throne
Conglob'd, we bask in everlasting day,
(Paternal splendor!) and adhere for ever.
Had not the soul this outlet to the skies,
In this vast vessel of the universe,
How should we grasp, as in an empty void!
How in the pangs of famish'd hope expire!

How bright my prospect shines! how gloomy thinest
 A trembling world! and a devouring God!
 Earth, but the shambles of Omnipotence!
 Heav'n's face all stain'd with causeless massacres
 Of countless millions, born to feel the pang
 Of being lost. Lorenzo! can it be?
 This bids us shudder at the thoughts of life.
 Who would be born to such a phantom world,
 Where nought substantial, but our misery?
 Where joy (if joy) but heightens our distress,
 So soon to perish, and revive no more?
 The greater such a joy, the more it pains.
 A world, so far from great (and yet how great
 It shines to thee!) there's nothing real in it;
 Being, a shadow! consciousness, a dream!
 A dream, how dreadful! universal blank
 Before it, and behind! poor man, a spark
 From non-existence struck by wrath divine,
 Glitt'ring a moment, nor that moment sure,
 'Midst upper, nether, and surrounding night,
 His sad, sure, sudden and eternal tomb!

Lorenzo! dost thou feel these arguments?
 Or is there nought but vengeance can be felt?
 How hast thou dar'd the Deity dethrone?
 How dar'd indict him of a world like this?
 If such the world, creation was a crime;
 For what is crime, but cause of misery?
 Retract, blasphemer! and unriddle this,
 Of endless arguments above, below,
 Without us, and within, the short result—

' If man's immortal, there's a God in heav'n.'

But wherefore such redundancy? such waste
Of argument? One sets my soul at rest;
One obvious, and at hand; and, oh!—at heart.
So just the skies, Philander's life so pain'd,
His heart so pure; that, or succeeding scenes
Have palms to give, or ne'er had he been born.

' What an old tale is this!' Lorenzo cries—
I grant this argument is old; but truth
No years impair; and had not this been true,
Thou never hadst despis'd it for its age.
Truth is immortal as thy soul; and fable
As fleeting as thy joys: be wise, nor make
Heav'n's highest blessing, vengeance; O be wise!
Nor make a curse of immortality.

Say, know'st thou what it is? or what thou art?
Know'st thou th' importance of a soul immortal?
Behold this midnight glory: worlds on worlds!
Amazing pomp! redouble this amaze;
Ten thousand add; add twice ten thousand more;
Then weigh the whole; one soul outweighs them all;
And calls th' astonishing magnificence
Of unintelligent creation poor.

For this, believe not me; no man believe;
Trust not in words, but deeds; and deeds no less
Than those of the Supreme; nor his, a few;
Consult them all; consulted, all proclaim
Thy soul's importance: tremble at thyself;
For whom Omnipotence has wak'd so long:
Has wak'd, and work'd, for ages; from the birth

218 THE COMPLAINT:

Of nature to this unbelieving hour.

In this small province of his vast domain
(All nature bow, while I pronounce his name!)
What has God done, and not for this sole end,
To rescue souls from death? the soul's high price
Is writ in all the conduct of the skies.

The soul's high price is the creation's key,
Unlocks its mysteries and naked lays
The genuine cause of ev'ry deed divine:
That, is the chain of ages, which maintains
Their obvious correspondence, and unites
Most distant periods in one blest design:
That, is the mighty hinge, on which have turn'd
All revolutions, whether we regard
The natural, civil, or religious world;
The former two, but servants to the third:
To that their duty done, they both expire,
Their mass new-cast, forgot their deeds renown'd;
And angels ask, 'Where once they shone so fair?'

To lift us from this abject, to sublime;
This flux, to permanent; this dark, to day;
This foul, to pure; this turbid, to serene;
This mean, to mighty!—for this glorious end
Th'Almighty, rising, his long sabbath broke:
The world was made; was ruin'd; was restor'd;
Laws from the skies were publish'd; were repeal'd;
On earth kings, kingdoms, rose; kings, kingdoms, fell;
Fam'd sages lighted up the Pagan world;
Prophets from Sion darted a keen glance
Thro' distant age; saints travell'd; martyrs bled;

By wonders sacred nature stood controul'd;
 The living were translated; dead were rais'd;
 Angels, and more than angels, came from heav'n;
 And, oh! for this, descended lower still;
 Guilt was hell's gloom; astonish'd at his guest,
 For one short moment Lucifer ador'd:
 Lorenzo! and wilt thou do less?—for this,
 That hallow'd page, fool's scoff at, was inspir'd,
 Of all these truths thrice-venerable code!
 Deists? perform your quarantine; and then
 Fall prostrate, ere you touch it, lest you die.

Nor less intensely bent infernal powers
 To mar, than those of light, this end to gain.
 O what a scene is here!—Lorenzo! wake;
 Rise to the thought; exert, expand thy soul
 To take the vast idea: it denies.
 All else the name of great. Two warring worlds!
 Not Europe against Afric; warring worlds,
 Of more than mortal! mounted on the wing!
 On ardent wings of energy, and zeal,
 High-hov'ring o'er this little brand of strife!
 This sublunary ball——but strife, for what?
 In their own cause conflicting? no; in thine,
 In man's, His single int'rest blows the flame;
 His the sole stake; his fate the trumpet sounds,
 Which kindles war immortal. How it burns!
 Tumultuous swarms of deities in arms!
 Force, force opposing, till the waves run high,
 And tempest nature's universal sphere.
 Such opposites eternal, steadfast, stern,

Such foes implacable, are good, and ill;
Yet man, vain man, would mediate peace between them:

Think not this fiction. ' There was war in heav'n.
From heav'n's high crystal mountain, where it hung,
Th' Almighty's out-stretcht arm took down his bow,
And shot his indignation at the deep:
Re-thunder'd hell, and darted all her fires.—
And seems the stake of little moment still?
And slumbers man, who singly caus'd the storm?
He sleeps.—And art thou shockt at mysteries?
The greatest, thou. How dreadful to reflect,
What ardor, care, and counsel, mortals cause
In breasts divine! how little in their own!

Where-e'er I turn, how new proofs pour upon me!
How happily this wond'rous view supports
My former argument! how strongly strikes
Immortal life's full demonstration here!
Why this exertion? why this strange regard
From Heav'n's Omnipotent indulg'd to man?—
Because, in man, the glorious, dreadful pow'r,
Extremely to be pain'd, or blest, for ever.
Duration gives importance; swells the price.
An angel, if a creature of a day,
What would he be? A trifle of no weight;
Or stand, or fall; no matter which; he's gone:
Because immortal, therefore is indulg'd
This strange regard of deities to dust.
Hence, heav'n looks down on earth with all her eyes:
Hence, the soul's mighty moment in her sight:
Hence, ev'ry soul has partisans above,

NIGHT THE SEVENTH. 213

And ev'ry thought a critic in the skies :
 Hence, clay, vile clay ! has angels for its guard,
 And ev'ry guard a passion for his charge :
 Hence, from all age, the cabinet divine
 Has held high counsel o'er the fate of man.

Nor have the clouds those gracious counsels hid,
 Angels undrew the curtain of the throne,
 And Providence came forth to meet mankind :
 In various modes of emphasis and awe,
 He spoke his will and trembling nature heard ;
 He spoke it loud, in thunder, and in storm.
 Witness, thou Sinai ! whose cloud-cover'd height,
 And shaken basis, own'd the present God :
 Witness, ye billows ! whose returning tide,
 Breaking the chain that fasten'd it in air,
 Swept Egypt, and her menaces, to hell :
 Witness, ye flames ! th' Assyrian tyrant blew
 To sev'nfold rage, as impotent, as strong :
 And thou, earth ! witness, whose expanding jaws
 Clos'd o'er * presumption's sacrilegious sons :
 Has not each element, in turn, subscrib'd
 The soul's high price, and sworn it to the wise ?
 Has not flame, ocean, ether, earthquake, strove
 To strike this truth, through adamantinè man ?
 If not all-adamant, Lorenzo ! hear ;
 All is delusion ; nature is wrapt up,
 In tenfold night, from reason's keenest eye ;
 There's no consistence, meaning, plan, or end,

* Korah, &c.

In all beneath the sun in all above,
 (As far as man can penetrate) or heav'n
 Is an immense, inestimable prize;
 Or all is nothing, or that prize is all.—
 And shall each toy be still a match for heav'n!
 And full equivalent for groans below?
 Who would not give a trifle to prevent
 What he would give a thousand worlds to cure?

Lorenzo! thou hast seen (if thine, to see)
 All nature, and her God (by nature's course,
 And nature's course controul'd) declare for me:
 The skies above proclaim 'Immortal man!'
 And, 'Man immortal!' all below resounds,
 The world's a system of theology,
 Read, by the greatest strangers to the schools;
 If honest, learn'd; and sages o'er a plough.
 Is not, Lorenzo! then, impos'd on thee
 This hard alternative; or, to renounce
 Thy reason, and thy sense; or, to believe?
 What then is unbelief? 'tis an exploit;
 A strenuous enterprize: to gain it, man
 Must burst through ev'ry bar of common sense,
 Of common shame, magnanimously wrong;
 And what rewards the sturdy combatant?
 His prize, repentance; infamy, his crown.

But wherefore, infamy?—For want of faith,
 Down the steep precipice of wrong he slides;
 There's nothing to support him in the right.
 Faith in the future wanting, is, at least
 In embryo, ev'ry weakness, ev'ry guilt;

And strong temptation ripens into birth.
 If this life's gain invites him to the deed,
 Why not his country sold, his father slain?
 'Tis virtue to pursue our good supreme;
 And his supreme, his only good is here.
 Ambition, av'rice, by the wise disdain'd,
 Is perfect wisdom, while mankind are fools,
 And think a turf, or tombstone, covers all:
 These find employment, and provide for sense
 A richer pasture, and a larger range;
 And sense by right divine ascends the throne,
 When virtue's prize and prospect are no more;
 Virtue no more we think the will of heaven.
 Would heav'n quite beggar virtue, if belov'd?

'Has virtue charms?'—I grant her heav'nly fair;
 But if unportion'd, all will int'rest wed;
 Tho' that our admiration, this our choice.
 The virtues grow on immortality;
 That root destroy'd, they wither and expire.
 A Deity believ'd, will nought avail;
 Rewards and punishments make God ador'd;
 And hopes and fears give conscience all her power.
 As in the dying parent dies the child,
 Virtue, with immortality, expires.
 Who tells me he denies his soul immortal,
 Whate'er his boast, has told me, he's a knave.
 His duty 'tis, to love himself alone;
 Nor care tho' mankind perish, if he smiles.
 Who thinks ere-long the man shall wholly die,
 Is dead already; nought but brute survives.

And are there such?—Such candidates there are
For more than death ; for utter loss of being,
Being the basis of the DEITY!

Ask you the cause?—the cause they will not tell ;
Nor need they : oh the forceries of sense!
They work their transformation on the soul,
Dismount her like the serpent at the fall,
Dismount her from her native wing (which soar'd
Ere while ethereal heights) and throw her down,
To lick the dust, and crawl, in such a thought.

Is it in words to paint you? O ye fall'n!
Fall'n from the wings of reason, and of hope!
Erect in stature, prone in appetite!
Patrons of pleasure, posting into pain!
Lovers of argument, averse to sense!
Boasters of liberty, fast-bound in chains!
Lords of the wide creation, and the shame!
More senseless than th' irrationals you scorn!
More base than those you rule? than those you pity,
Far more undone! O ye most infamous
Of beings, from superior dignity!
Deepest in woe from means of boundless bliss!
Ye curst by blessings infinite! Because
Most highly favour'd, most profoundly lost!
Ye motly mass of contradiction strong!
And are you, too, convinc'd your souls fly off
In exhalation soft, and die in air,
From the full flood of evidence against you?
In the coarse drudgeries, and sinks of sense,
Your souls have quite worn out the make of heaven,

By vice new-cast, and creatures of your own :
 But tho' you can deform, you can't destroy ;
 To curse, not uncreate, is all your pow'r.

Lorenzo ! this black brotherhood renounce ;
 Renounce St. Evremont, and read St Paul.
 Ere rapt by miracle, by reason wing'd,
 His mounting mind made long abode in heaven.
 This is freethinking, unconfin'd to parts,
 To send the soul, on curious travel bent,
 Thro' all the provinces of human thought ;
 To dart her flight, thro' the whole sphere of man ;
 Of this vast universe to make the tour ;
 In each recess of space and time, at home ;
 Familiar with their wonders ; diving deep ;
 And, like a prince of boundless int rests there,
 Still most ambitious of the most remote ;
 To look on truth unbroken, and entire ;
 Truth in the system, the full orb ; where truths
 By truth's enlighten'd, and sustain'd, afford
 An arch-like strong foundation, to support
 Th' incumbent weight of absolute, complete
 Conviction ; here, the more we press, we stand
 More firm ; who most examine, most believe.
 Parts, like half-sentences, confound ; the whole
 Conveys the sense, and God is understood ;
 Who not in fragments writes to human race ;
 Read his whole volume, sceptic ! then reply.

This, this, is thinking free, a thought that grasps
 Beyond a grain, and looks beyond an hour.

Turn up thine eye, survey this midnight scene ;

What are earth's kingdoms, to yon boundless orbs,
 Of human souls, one day the destin'd range?
 And what yon boundless orbs, to godlike man?
 Those num'rous worlds that throng the firmament,
 And ask more space in heaven, can roll at large
 In man's capacious thought, and still leave room
 For ampler orbs; for new creations, there.

Can such a soul contract itself, to gripe
 A point of no dimension, of no weight?
 It can; it does: the world is such a point:
 And, of that point, how small a part enslaves!

How small a part—of nothing, shall I say?
 Why not?—friends, our chief treasure! how they drop!
 Lucia, Narcissa fair, Philander, gone!
 The grave, like fabl'd Cerberus, has op'd
 A triple mouth; and, in an awful voice,
 Loud calls my soul, and utters all I sing.
 How the world falls to pieces round about us,
 And leaves us in a ruin of our joy!

What says this transportation of my friends?
 It bids me love the place where now they dwell,
 And scorn this wretched spot they leave so poor.
 Eternity's vast ocean lies before thee;
 There, there, Lorenzo! thy Clarissa sails.
 Give thy mind sea-room; keep it wide of earth,
 That rock of souls immortal; cut thy cord;
 Weigh anchor; spread thy sails; call ev'ry wind;
 Eye thy great pole-star; make the land of life.

Two kinds of life has double-natur'd man,
 And two of death; the last far more severe.

Life animal is nurtur'd by the sun ;
 Thrives on his bounties, triumphs in his beams.
 Life rational subsists on higher food,
 Triumphant in his beams, who made the day.
 When we leave that sun, and are left by this,
 (The fate of all who die in stubborn guilt)
 'Tis utter darkness ; strictly double death.
 We sink by no judicial stroke of heaven,
 By nature's course ; as sure as plumbets fall.
 Since God, or man, must alter, ere they meet,
 (Since light and darkness blend not in one sphere ;)
 'Tis manifest, Lorenzo ! who must change.

If, then, that double death should prove thy lot,
 Blame not the bowels of the DEITY ;
 Man shall be blest, as far as man permits.
 Not man alone, all rationals, heav'n arms
 With an illustrious, but tremendous, power
 To counter-act its own most gracious ends ;
 And this, of strict necessity, not choice :
 That pow'r deny'd, men, angels, were no more,
 But passive engines, void of praise, or blame.
 A nature rational implies the power
 Of being blest, or wretched, as we please ;
 Else idle reason would have nought to do ;
 And he that would be barr'd capacity
 Of pain, courts incapacity of bliss.
 Heav'n wills our happiness, allows our doom ;
 Invites us ardently, but not compels ;
 Heav'n but persuades. almighty man decrees ;
 Man is the maker of immortal fates.

Man falls by man, if finally he falls;
 And fall he must, who learns from death alone,
 The dreadful secret, — that he lives for ever.

Why this to thee? thee yet, perhaps, in doubt
 Of second life? but wherefore doubtful still?
 Eternal life is nature's ardent wish:
 What ardently we wish, we soon believe:
 Thy tardy faith declares that wish destroy'd:
 What has destroy'd it? — Shall I tell thee, what?
 When fear'd the future, 'tis no longer wish'd;
 And, when unwish'd, we strive to disbelieve.

' Thus infidelity our guilt betrays,'
 Nor that the sole detection! blush, Lorenzo!
 Blush for hypocrisy, if not for guilt
 The future fear'd! — an infidel, and fear?
 Fear what? a dream? a fable? — How thy dread,
 Unwilling evidence, and therefore strong,
 Affords my cause an undesign'd support?
 How disbelief affirms, what it denies?

' It, unawares, asserts immortal life.' —
 Surprising! infidelity turns out
 A creed, and a confession of our sins:
 Apostates, thus, are orthodox divines.

Lorenzo! with Lorenzo clash no more;
 Nor longer a transparent vizar wear.
 Think'st thou, religion only has her mask?
 Our infidels are Satan's hypocrites,
 Pretend the worst, and at the bottom, fail.
 When visited by thought (thought will intrude)
 Like him they serve; they tremble, and believe.

Is there hypocrisy so foul as this ?
So fatal to the welfare of the world ?
What detestation, what contempt, their duo!
And, if unpaid, be thank'd for their escape
That Christian candour they strive hard to scorn.
If not for that asylum, they might find
A hell on earth ; nor 'scape a worse below.

With insolence, and impotence of thought,
Instead of racking fancy, to refute,
Reform thy manners, and the truth enjoy.—
But shall I dare confess the dire result ?
Can thy proud reason brook so black a brand ?
From purer manners, to sublimer faith,
Is nature's unavoidable ascent ;
An honest deist, where the gospel shines,
Matur'd to nobler, in the Christian ends.
When that blest change arrives, e'en cast aside
This song superfluous ; life immortal strikes
Conviction, in a flood of light divine.
A Christian dwells, like * UARZ in the sun.
Meridian evidence puts doubt to flight ;
And ardent hope anticipates the skies.
Of that bright sun, LORENZO ! scale the sphere ;
'Tis easy ; it invites thee ; it descends
From heav'n to woo, and walt the whence it came :
Read and revere the sacred page ; a page
Where triumphs immortality ; a page
Which not the whole creation could produce.

Which not the conflagration shall destroy ;
 In nature's ruins not one letter lost :
 'Tis printed in the mind of Gods for ever.

In proud disdain of what e'en Gods adore,
 Dost smile ?—poor wretch ! thy guardian angel weeps.
 Angels and men, assent to what I sing ;
 Wits smile, and thank me for my midnight dream.
 How vicious hearts fume frenzy to the brain !
 Parts push us on to pride, and pride to shame ;
 Pert infidelity is wit's cockade,
 To grace the brazen brow that braves the skies,
 By loss of being, dreadfully secure
 LORENZO ! if thy doctrine wins the day,
 And drives my dreams, defeated, from the field ;
 If this is all, if earth a final scene,
 Take heed ; stand fast ; be sure to be a knave ;
 A knave in grain ! ne'er deviate to the right :
 Shouldst thou be good—how infinite thy loss !
 Guilt only makes annihilation gain.
 Blest scheme ! which life deprives of comfort, death
 Of hope ; and which VICE only, recommends.
 If so ; where, infidels ! your bait thrown out
 To catch weak converts ? where your lofty boast
 Of zeal for virtue, and of love to man ?
 ANNIHILATION ! I confess, in these.
 What can reclaim you ? Dare I hope profound
 Philosophers the converts of a song ?
 Yet know, its * title flatters you, not me ;

* The Infidel reclaimed.

Yours be the praise to make my title good ;
Mine, to bless heav'n, and triumph in your praise.
But since so pestilential your disease,
Tho' sov'reign is the med'cine I prescribe,
As yet, I'll neither triumph, nor despair :
But hope, ere long, my midnight dream will wake.
Your hearts and teach your wisdom—to be wise :
For why should souls immortal, made for bliss,
E'er wish (and wish in vain !) that souls could die ?
What ne'er can die, Oh ! grant to live ; and crown
The wish, and aim, and labour of the skies ;
Increase, and enter on the joys of heaven :
Thus shall my title pass a sacred seal,
Receive an *Imprimatur* from above,
While angels shout—' An infidel reclaim'd !'

To close, LORENZO ! spite of all my pains,
Still seems it strange, that thou shouldst live for ever ?
Is it less strange, that thou shouldst live at all ?
This is a miracle ; and that no more.
Who gave beginning, can exclude an end
Deny thou art : then, doubt if thou shalt be.
A miracle with miracles inclos'd,
Is man ; and starts his faith at what is strange ?
What less than wonders, from the wonderful ;
What less than miracles, from God, can flow ?
Admit a God—that mystery supreme !
That cause uncaus'd ! all other wonders cease ;
Nothing is marvellous for him to do :
Deny him—all is mystery besides ;
Millions of mysteries ! each darker far,

Than that thy wisdom would, unwisely, shun.
 If weak thy faith, why chuse the harder side?
 We nothing know, but what is marvellous;
 Yet what is marvellous, we can't believe.
 So weak our reason, and so great our God,
 What most surprises in the sacred page,
 Or full as strange, or stranger, must be true.
 Faith is not reason's labour, but repose.

To faith, and virtue, why so backward, man?
 From hence:—the present strongly strikes us all;
 The future, faintly: can we, then, be men?
 If men, LORENZO! the reverse is right.
 Reason is man's peculiar: sense, the brute's.
 The present is the scanty realm of sense;
 The future, reason's empire unconfin'd:
 On that expending all her godlike pow'r,
 She plans, provides, expatiates, triumphs, there;
 There builds her blessings! there, expects her praise;
 And nothing asks of fortune, or of men.
 And what is reason? be she, thus, defin'd;
 Reason is upright stature in the soul.
 Oh! be a man;—and, strive to be a God.
 ' For what? (thou say'st:) to damp the joys of life?
 No; to give heart and substance to thy joys.
 That tyrant, hope, mark, how she domineers;
 She bids us quit realities, for dreams;
 Safety, and peace, for hazard, and alarm;
 That tyrant o'er the tyrants of the soul,
 She bids ambition quit its taken prize,
 Spurn the luxuriant branch on which it sits,

Tho' bearing crowns, to spring at distant game;
 And plunge in toils and dangers—— for repose.
 If hope precarious, and of things, when gain'd,
 Of little moment, and as little stay,
 Can sweeten toils and dangers into joys;
 What then, that hope, which nothing can defeat,
 Our leave unask'd? rich hope of boundless bliss!
 Bliss, past man's pow'r to paint it; time's, to close!

This hope is earth's inestimable prize:
 This is man's portion, while no more than man:
 Hope, of all passions, most befriends us here;
 Passions of prouder name befriend us less.
 Joy has her tears; and transport has her death;
 Hope, like a cordial, innocent, tho' strong,
 Man's heart, at once, inspirits, and serenest;
 Nor makes him pay his wisdom for his joys;
 'Tis all our present state can safely bear,
 Health to the frame! and vigour to the mind!
 A joy attemper'd! a chastis'd delight!
 Like the fair summer-ev'ning, mild, and sweet!
 'Tis man's full cup; his paradise below!

A blest hereafter, then, or hop'd, or gain'd,
 Is all;—— our whole of happiness: full proof,
 I chose no trivial or inglorious theme,
 And know, ye foes to song! (well meaning men,
 Tho' quite forgotten * half your bible's praise!
 Important truths, in spite of verse, may please:

* The poetical parts of it.

Grave minds you praise; nor can you praise too much;
If there is weight in an eternity,
Let the grave listen; —and be graver still.

NIGHT THE EIGHTH.

VIRTUE'S APOLOGY,

OR,

The MAN of the WORLD Answered.

In which are Considered,

The LOVE of this LIFE ;

The AMBITION and PLEASURE, with the WIT and

WISDOM of the WORLD.

C

A

An

All

Un

An

Th

Ma

Ac

Pr

In

W

Fi

Sp

Fa

A

Pe

To

A

TI

TI

No

T H E
C O M P L A I N T.

NIGHT THE EIGHTH.

AND has all nature, then, espous'd my part?
Have I brib'd heav'n, and earth, to plead against:
And is thy soul immortal?—what remains? [thee?
All, all, Lorenzo; make immortal, blest.
Unblest immortals! what can shock us more?
And yet Lorenzo still affects the world;
There, stows his treasure; thence, his title draws,
Man of the world! (for such wouldst thou be call'd)
And art thou proud of that inglorious style?
Proud of reproach? for a reproach it was,
In ancient days; and Christian,—in an age,
When men were men, and not ashamed of heav'n,
Fir'd their ambition, as it crown'd their joy.
Sprinkled with dews from the Castalian font,
Fain wou'd I re-baptize thee, and confer
A purer spirit, and a nobler name.

Thy fond attachments fatal, and inflam'd,
Point out my path, and dictate to my song;
To thee, the world how fair! how strongly strikes
Ambition! and gay pleasures stronger still!
Thy triple bane! thy triple bolt, that lays
Thy virtue dead! be these my triple theme;
Nor shall thy wit or wisdom, be forgot.

Common the theme ; not so the song ; if she
 My song invokes, Urania, deigns to smile.
 The charm that chains us to the world, her foe,
 If she dissolves, the man of earth, at once,
 Starts from his trance, and sighs for other scenes ;
 Scenes, where these sparks of night, these stars, shall
 shine

Unnumber'd suns (for all things, as they are,
 The blest behold ;) and, in one glory, pour
 Their blended blaze on man's astonish'd sight ;
 A blaze,—the least illustrious object there.

Lorenzo ! since eternal is at hand,
 To swallow time's ambitions ; as the vast
 Leviathan, the bubbles vain, that ride
 High on the foaming billow ; what avail
 High titles, high descent, attainments high,
 If unattain'd our highest ? O Lorenzo !
 What lofty thoughts, these elements above,
 What tow'ring hopes, what sallies from the sun,
 What grand surveys of destiny divine,
 And pompous presage of unfathom'd fate,
 Should roll in bosoms, where a spirit burns,
 Bound for eternity ! in bosoms read
 By him, who soibles in archangels sees !
 On human hearts he bends a jealous eye,
 And marks, and in heav'n's register inrolls,
 The rise, and progress, of each option there ;
 Sacred to doomsday ! that the page unfolds,
 And spreads us to the gaze of gods and men.

And what an option. O Lorenzo! thine?
This world! and this, unrival'd by the skies!
A world, where lust of pleasure, grandeur, gold,
Three daemons that divide its realms between them,
With strokes alternate buffet to and fro
Man's restless heart, their sport, their flying ball;
Till, with the giddy circle, sick, and tir'd,
It pants for peace, and drops into despair.
Such is the world Lorenzo sets above
That glorious promise angels were esteem'd
Too mean to bring: a promise their ador'd
Descended to communicate, and press,
By counsel, miracle, life, death, on man
Such is the world Lorenzo's wisdom wooes,
And on its thorny pillow seeks repose;
A pillow, which, like opiates ill prepar'd,
Intoxicates, but not composes, fills
The visionary mind with gay chimeras,
All the wild trash of sleep, without the rest;
What unfeign'd travel, and what dreams of joy!

How frail, men, things! how momentary, both!
Fantastic chase, of shadows hunting shades!
The gay, the busy, equal, tho' unlike;
Equal in wisdom differently wise!
Thro' flow'ry meadows, and thro' dreary wastes,
One bustling, and one dancing into death.
There's not a day, but, to the man of thought,
Betrays some secret, that throws new reproach
On life and makes him sick of seeing more.
The scenes of bus'ness tell us—what are men;?

The scenes of pleasure—' what is all beside :'
 There, others we despise, and here, ourselves.
 Amid disgust eternal, dwells delight?
 'Tis approbation strikes the string of joy.

What wond'rous prize has kindled this career,
 Stuns with the din, and choaks us with the dust,
 On life's gay stage, one inch above the grave?
 The proud run up and down in quest of eyes;
 The sensual, in pursuit of something worse :
 The grave, of gold; the politic, of power;
 And all, of other butterflies, as vain !
 As eddies draw things frivolous, and light,
 How is man's heart by vanity drawn in ;
 On the swift circle of returning toys,
 Whirl'd, straw-like, round and round, and then in-
 gulph'd,

Where gay delusion darkens to despair !

' This is a beaten track.'—Is this a track
 Should not be beaten? never beat enough,
 Till enough learnt the truths it would inspire.
 Shall truth be silent, because folly frowns ?
 Turn the world's history ; what find we there,
 But fortune's sport, or nature's cruel claims,
 Or woman's artifice, or man's revenge,
 And endless inhumanities on man ?
 Fame's trumpet seldom sounds, but, like the knell
 It brings bad tidings: how it hourly blows
 Man's misadventures round the list'ning world !
 Man is the tale of narrative old Time ;
 Sad tale ; which high as Paradise begins ;

As if, the toil of travel to delude,
From stage to stage, in his eternal round,
The days, his daughters, as they spin our hours
On fortune's wheel. where accident unthought
Oft, in a moment, snaps life's strongest thread,
Each, in her turn, some tragic story tells,
With, now-and-then, a wretched farce between;
And fills his chronicle with human woes.

Time's daughters, true as those of men, deceive us;
Not one, but puts some cheat on all mankind:
While in their father's bosom, not yet ours,
They flatter our fond hopes; and promise much
Of amiable; but hold him not o'erwise,
Who dares to trust them; and laugh round the year,
At still-confiding, still-confounded, man,
Confiding, tho' confounded; hoping on,
Untaught by trial, unconvinc'd by proof,
And ever looking for the never-seen.
Life to the last, like harden'd felons, lyes;
Nor owns itself a cheat, till it expires.
Its little joys go out by one and one,
And leave poor man, at length, in perfect night;
Night darker, than what, now, involves the pole.

O THOU, who dost permit these ills to fall,
For gracious ends, and wouldst that man should mourn!
O THOU, whose hands this goodly fabric fram'd,
Who know'st it best, and wouldst that man should know:
What is this sublunary world? a vapour;
A vapour all it holds; itself, a vapour,
From the damp bed of chaos, by thy beam

Exhal'd, ordain'd to swim its destin'd hour
In ambient air, then melt, and disappear.
Earth's days are number'd, nor remote her doom;
As mortal, tho' less transient than her sons;
Yet they doat on her, as the world and they
Were both eternal, solid; THOU, a dream.

They doat, on what? immortal views apart,
A region of outsidess! a land of shadows!
A fruitful field of flow'ry promises!
A wilderness of joys! perplex'd with doubts,
And sharp with thorns! a troubled ocean, spread:
With bold adventurers, their all on board;
No second hope, if here their fortune frowns;
Frown soon it must. Of various rates they sail,
Of ensigns various; all alike in this,
All restless, anxious; tost with hopes, and fears,
In calmest skies; obnoxious all to storm!
And stormy the most general blast of life:
All bound for happiness; yet few provide
The chart of knowledge, pointing where it lies;
Or virtue's helm, to shape the course design'd:
All, more or less, capricious fate lament,
Now lifted by the tide, and now resorb'd,
And farther from their wishes, than before:
All, more or less, against each other dash,
To mutual hurt, by gusts of passion driven,
And suff'ring more from folly, than from fate.

Ocean! thou dreadful and tumultuous home
Of dangers, at eternal war with man!
Death's capital, where most he domineers,

With all his chosen terrors frowning round,
(Tho' lately feasted high at * Albion's cost)
Wide op'ning, and loud roaring still for more!
Too faithful mirror! how dost thou reflect
The melancholy face of human life!
The strong resemblance tempts me farther still:
And, haply, Britain may be deeper struck
By mortal truth, in such a mirror seen,
Which nature holds for ever at her eye.

Self-flatter'd, unexperienc'd, high in hope,
When young, with sanguine chear, and streamers gay,
We cut our cable, launch into the world,
And fondly dream each wind and star our friend;
All, in some darling enterprize embark'd:
But where is he can fathom its event?
Amid a multitude of artless hands,
Ruin's sure perquisite! her lawful prize!
Some steer aright; but the black blast blows hard,
And puffs them wide of hope: with hearts of proof,
Full against wind and tide, some win their way;
And when strong effort has deserv'd the port,
And tugg'd it into view, 'tis won! 'tis lost!
Tho' strong their oar, still stronger is their fate:
They strike; and, while they triumph, they expire.
In stress of weather, most; some sink outright;
O'er them, and o'er their names, the billows close;
To-morrow knows not they were ever born.
Others a short memorial leave behind,

* Admiral Balchen, &c.

Like a flag floating, when the bark's ingulph'd;
 It floats a moment, and is seen no more:
 One Caesar lives; a thousand are forgot.
 How few, beneath auspicious planets born,
 (Darlings of providence! fond fate's elect!)
 With swelling sails make good the promis'd port,
 With all their wishes freighted! yet ev'n these
 Freight'd with all their wishes, soon complain;
 Free from misfortunes, not from nature free,
 Thy still are men; and when is man secure?
 As fatal time, as storm! the rush of years
 Beats down their strength, their numberless escapes
 In ruin end: and now, their proud success
 But plants new terrors on the victors brow:
 What pain to quit the world, just made their own,
 Their nest so deeply down'd, and built so high!
 Too low they build, who build beneath the stars.

Woe then apart (if woe apart can be
 From mortal man) and fortune at our nod,
 The gay! rich! great! triumphant! and august!
 What are they?—the most happy (strange we say!)
 Convince me most of human misery:
 What are they? smiling wretches of to-morrow!
 More wretched, then, than e'er their slave can be;
 Their treach'rous blessings, at the day of need,
 Like other faithless friends, unmask, and sting:
 Then, what provoking indigence in wealth!
 What aggravated impotence in power!
 High titles, then, what insult of their pain!
 If that sole anchor, equal to the waves,

Immortal hope ! defies not the rude storm,
Takes comfort from the foaming billow's rage,
And makes a welcome harbour of the tomb.

Is this a sketch of what thy soul admires ?

' But here (thou sayst) the miseries of life
' Are huddled in a group. A more distinct
' Survey, perhaps, might bring thee better news.'
Look on life's stages : they speak plainer still ;
The plainer they, the deeper wilt thou sigh.
Look on thy lovely boy ; in him behold
The best that can befall the best on earth ;
The boy has virtue by his mother's side :
Yes, on Florello look : a father's heart
Is tender, tho' the man's is made of stone ;
The truth, thro' such a medium seen, may make
Impression deep, and fondness prove thy friend.

Florelo lately cast on this rude coast
A helpless infant ; now a heedless child ;
To poor Clarissa's throes, thy care succeeds ;
Care full of love, and yet severe as hate !
O'er thy soul's joy how oft thy fondness frowns !
Needful austerities his will restrain ;
As thorns fence in the tender plant from harm.
As yet, his reason cannot go alone ;
But asks a sterner nurse to lead it on.
His little heart is often terrify'd ;
The blush of morning, in his cheek, turns pale ;
Its pearly dew-drop trembles in his eye ;
His harmless eye ! and drowns an angel there,
Ah ! what avails his innocence ? the task

220 THE COMPLAINT:

Injoin'd must discipline his early pow'rs;
 He learns to sigh, ere he is known to sin;
 Guiltless, and sad! a wretch before the fall!
 How cruel this! more cruel to forbear.
 Our nature such, with necessary pains,
 We purchase prospects of precarious peace:
 Tho' not a father, this might steal a sigh.

Suppose him disciplin'd aright (if not,
 'Twill sink our poor account to poorer still;)
 Ripe from the tutor, proud of liberty,
 He leaps inclosure, bounds into the world;
 The world is taken, after ten years toil,
 Like ancient Troy; and all its joys his own.
 Alas! the world's a tutor more severe;
 Its lessons hard, and ill deserve his pains;
 Unteaching all his virtuous nature taught,
 Or books (fair virtue's advocates!) inspir'd.

For who receives him into public life?
 Men of the world, the terrae-filial breed,
 Welcome the modest stranger to their sphere,
 (Which glitter'd long, at distance, in his sight)
 And, in their hospitable arms, inclose:
 Men, who think nought so strong of the romance,
 So rank knight-errant, as a real friend:
 Men, that act up to reason's golden rule,
 All weakness of affection quite subdu'd:
 Men, that would blush at being thought sincere,
 And feign, for glory, the few faults they want;
 That love a lie, where truth would pay as well;
 As if, to them, vice shone her own reward.

Lorenzo! canst thou bear a shocking sight?
 Such, for Florello's sake, 'twill now appear:
 See, the steel'd files of season'd veterans,
 Train'd to the world, in burnish'd falshood bright;
 Deep in the fatal stratagems of peace;
 All soft sensation, in the throng, rubb'd off;
 All their keen purpose, in politeness, sheath'd;
 His friends eternal—during interest;
 His foes implacable—when worth their while;
 At war with ev'ry welfare, but their own;
 As wise as Lucifer; and half as good;
 And by whom none, but Lucifer, can gain—
 Naked, through these (so common fate ordains)
 Naked of heart, his cruel course he runs,
 Stung out of all, most aimable in life,
 Prompt truth, and open thought, and smiles unfeign'd;
 Affection, as his species, wide diffus'd;
 Noble presumptions to mankind's renown;
 Ingenuous trust, and confidence of love.

These claims to joy (if mortals joy might claim)
 Will cost him many a sigh; till time, and pains,
 From the slow mistress of this school, experience,
 And her assistant, pausing, pale, distrust,
 Purchase a dear-bought clue to lead his youth
 Thro' serpentine obliquities of life,
 And the dark labyrinth of human hearts.
 And happy! if the clue shall come so cheap;
 For, while we learn to fence with public guilt,
 Full oft we feel its foul contagion too,
 If less than heavenly virtue is our guard.

Thus, a strange kind of curst necessity
 Brings down the sterling temper of his soul,
 By base alloy, to bear the current stamp;
 Below call'd wisdom; sinks him into safety;
 And brands him into credit with the world;
 Where specious titles dignify disgrace,
 And nature's injuries are arts of life;
 Where brighter reason prompts to bolder crimes;
 And heavenly talents make infernal hearts;
 That unfurmountable extreme of guilt!

Poor Machiavel! who labour'd hard his plan,
 Forgot, that genius need not go to school;
 Forgot, that man, without a tutor wife,
 His plan had practis'd, long before 'twas writ.
 The world's all title page, there's no contents;
 The world's all face; the man who shews his heart,
 Is whooted for his nudities, and scorn'd.
 A man I knew, who liv'd upon a smile;
 And well it sed him; he look'd plump and fair;
 While rankest venom foam'd through every vein.
 Lorenzo! what I tell thee, take not ill!
 Living, he fawn'd on ev'ry fool alive;
 And, dying, curs'd the friend on whom he liv'd.
 To such proficient thou art half a saint.
 In foreign realms (for thou hast travell'd far)
 How curious to contemplate two state-rooks,
 Studious their nests to feather in a trice,
 With all the necromantics of their art,
 Playing the game of faces on each other,
 Making court sweet-meats of their latent gall,

In foolish hope, to steal each other's trust;
Both cheating, both exulting, both deceiv'd;
And, sometimes, both (let earth rejoice) undone!
Their parts we doubt not; but be that their shame;
Shall men of talents, fit to rule mankind,
Stoop to mean wiles, that would disgrace a fool?
And lose the thanks of those few friends they serve?
For who can thank the man, he cannot see?

Why so much cover? it defeats itself.

Ye, that know all things! know ye not, men's hearts
Are therefore known, because they are conceal'd?
For why conceal'd?—the cause they need not tell,
I give him joy, that's awkward at a lye;
Whose feeble nature truth keeps still in awe;
His incapacity is his renown.

'Tis great, 'tis manly, to disdain disguise;
It shews our spirit, or it proves our strength.
Thou say'st, 'tis needful: is it therefore right,
Howe'er, I grant it some small sign of grace,
To strain at an excuse: and wouldst thou then
Escape that cruel need? thou may'st, with ease;
Think no post needful that demands a knave.
When late our civil helm was shifting hands,
So P—— thought: think better, if you can.

But this, how rare! the public path of life
Is dirty:—yet, allow that dirt its due,
It makes the noble mind more noble still:
The world's no neuter; it will wound, or save;
Our virtue quench, or indignation fire,
You say; the world, well-known, will make a man:

The world, well-known, will give our hearts to heav'n,
Or make us daemons, long before we die.

To shew how fair the world, thy mistress, shines,
Take either part, sure ills attend the choice;
Sure, though not equal, detriment ensues.

Not virtue's self is deify'd on earth;
Virtue has her relapses, conflicts, foes;
Foes, that ne'er fail to make her feel their hate.

Virtue has her peculiar set of pains.
True; friends to virtue, last, and least, complain;
But if they sigh, can others hope to smile?

If wisdom has her miseries to mourn,
How can poor folly lead a happy life?

And if both suffer, what has earth to boast,
Where he most happy, who the least laments?

- Where much, much patience, the most envy'd state,
And some forgiveness, needs, the best of friends?
For friend, or happy life, who looks not higher,
Of neither shall he find the shadow here.

The world's sworn advocate, without a fee,
Lorenzo smartly, with a smile, replies;

• Thus far thy song is right; and all must own,

• Virtue has her peculiar set of pains—

• And joys peculiar who to vice denies?

• If vice it is, with nature to comply:

• If pride, and sense, are so predominant,

• To check, not overcome, them, makes a saint,

• Can nature in a plainer voice proclaim

• Pleasure, and glory, the chief good of man?

Can pride, and sensuality, rejoice?

From purity of thought, all pleasure springs;
 And from an humble spirit, all our peace.
 Ambition, pleasure! let us talk of these:
 Of these, the Porch, and Academy, talk'd;
 Of these each following age had much to say;
 Yet unexhausted, still, the needful theme.
 Who talks of these, to mankind all at once
 He talks; for where the saint from either free?
 Are these thy refuge?—no; these rush upon thee;
 Thy vitals seize, and, vulture-like, devour:
 I'll try, If I can pluck thee from thy rock,
 Prometheus! from this barren ball of earth;
 If reason can unchain thee, thou art free.

And, first, thy Caucasus, ambition calls;
 Mountain of torments! eminence of woes!
 Of courted woes! and courted through mistake!
 'Tis not ambition charms thee; 'tis a cheat
 Will make thee start, as H——at his Moor.
 Dost grasp at greatness? First, know what it is:
 Think'st thou thy greatness in distinction lies?
 Not in the feather, wave it e'er so high,
 By fortune stuck, to mark as from the throng,
 Is glory lodg'd: 'tis lodg'd in the reverse;
 In that which joins, in that which equals, all,
 The monarch, and his slave;—' A deathless soul,
 ' Unbounded prospect, and immortal kin,
 ' A Father God, and brothers in the skies;
 Elder, indeed, in time; but less remote
 In excellence, perhaps than thought by man;
 Why greater what can fall, than what can rise?

If still delirious, now, Lorenzo? go ;
And with thy full-blown brothers of of the world,
Throw scorn around thee? cast it on thy slaves ;
Thy slaves, and equals : how scorn cast on them
Rebounds on thee! if man is mean, as man,
Art thou a god? If fortune make him so,
Beware the consequence : a maxim that,
Which draws a monstrous picture of mankind,
Where, in the drapery, the man is lost ;
Externals fluttering, and the soul forgot.
Thy greatest glory, when dispos'd to boast,
Boast that aloud, in which thy servants share.

We wisely strip the sfeed we mean to buy :
Judge we, in their caparisons, of men ?
It nought avails thee, where, but what, thou art ;
All the distinction of this little life
Are quite cutaneous, foreign to the man. [creep,
When, through death's sleights, earth's subtle serpents
Which wriggle into wealth, or climb renown,
As crooked Satan the forbidden tree,
They leave their party colour'd robe behind,
All that now glitter, while they rear aloft
Their brazen crests, and hiss at us below.
Of fortune's fucus strip them, yet alive ;
Strip them of body, too ; nay, closer still,
Away with all, but mortal, in their minds ;
And let, what then remains, impose their name,
Pronounce them weak, or worthy ; great, or mean.
How mean that snuff of glory fortune lights,
And death puts out! Dost thou demand a test,

A test, at once, infallible, and short;
Of real greatness? that man greatly lives,
Whate'er his fate, or fame, who greatly dies;
High-flush'd with hope, where heroes shall despair.
If this a true criterion, many courts,
Illustrious, might afford but few grandees.

Th' Almighty, from his throne, on earth surveys
Nought greater, than an honest, humble heart;
An humble heart, his residence! pronounc'd
His second seat; and rival to the skies.
The private path, the secret acts of men,
If noble, far the noblest of our lives!
How far above Lorenzo's glory sits
Th' illustrious master of a name unknown;
Whose worth unrivall'd, and unwitness'd, loves
Life's sacred shades, where gods converse with men;
And peace, beyond the world's conception, smiles!
As thou! (now dark,) before we part, shalt see.

But thy great soul this skulking glory scorns.
Lorenzo's sick, but when Lorenzo's seen;
And, when he shrugs at public business, lyes.
Deny'd the public eye, the public voice;
As if he liv'd on others breath, he dies.
Fain would he make the world his pedestal;
Mankind the gazers, the sole figure, he.
Knows he, that mankind praise against their will,
And mix as much detraction as they can?
Knows he, that faithless fame her whisper has,
As well as trumpet? that his vanity
Is so much tickled from not hearing all?

Knows this all-knower, that from itch of praise,
 Or, from an itch more sordid, when he shines,
 Taking his country by five hundred ears,
 Senates at once admire him, and despise,
 With modest laughter lining loud applause,
 Which makes the smile more mortal to his fame?
 His fame, which (like the mighty Caesar,) crown'd
 With laurels, in full senate, greatly falls,
 By seeming friends, that honour, and destroy.
 We rise in glory, as we sink in pride:
 Where boasting ends, there dignity begins:
 And yet, mistaken beyond all mistake,
 The blind Lorenzo's proud!—of being proud:
 And dreams himself ascending in his fall.

An eminence, though fancy'd, turns the brain:
 All vice wants hellebore: but of all vice,
 Pride loudest calls, and for the largest bowl:
 Because, all other vice unlike, it flies,
 In fact, the point, in fancy most pursu'd.
 Who court applause, oblige the world in this:
 They gratify man's passion to refuse.
 Superior honour, when assum'd, is lost:
 Ev'n good men turn banditti, and rejoice,
 Like Kouli-Khan, in plunder of the proud.

Though somewhat disconcerted, steady still
 To the world's cause, with half a face of joy,
 Lorenzo cries—' Be, then, ambition cast:
 ' Ambition's dearer far stands unimpeach'd,
 ' Gay pleasure! proud ambition is her slave:
 ' For her, he soars at great, and hazards ill:

' For her, he fights, and bleeds, or overcomes;
 ' And paves his way, with crowns, to reach her smile:
 ' Who can resist her charms?—Or, should? Lorenzo!
 What mortal shall resist, where angels yield?
 Pleasure's the mistress of ethereal powers:
 For her contend the rival gods above:
 Pleasure's the mistress of the world below:
 And well it is for man, that pleasure charms:
 How would all stagnate, but for pleasure's ray!
 How would the frozen steam of action cease!
 What is the pulse of this so busy world?
 The love of pleasure: that, through ev'ry vein,
 Throws motion, warmth: and shuts out death from life.

Though various are the tempers of mankind,
 Pleasure's gay family holds all in chains:
 Some most affect the black: and some, the fair:
 Some honest pleasure court: and some, obscene.
 Pleasures obscene are various, as the throng
 Of passions, that can err in human hearts;
 Mistake their objects, or transgress their bounds.
 Think you there's but one whoredom? whoredom, all.
 But when our reason licenses delight.
 Dost doubt, Lorenzo? thou shalt doubt no more.
 Thy father chides thy gallantries; yet hugs
 An ugly, common harlot, in the dark;
 A rank adulterer with others gold;
 And that hag, vengeance, in a corner, charms.
 Hatred her brothel has, as well as love,
 Where horrid Epicures debauch in blood.
 Whate'er the motive, pleasure is the mark:

For her, the black assassin draws his sword;
 For her, dark statesmen trim their midnight lamp,
 To which no single sacrifice may fall;
 For her the saint abstains; the miser starves;
 The Stoic proud, for pleasure, pleasure scorn'd;
 For her, affliction's daughters grief indulge,
 And find, our hope, a luxury in tears;
 For her, guilt, shame, toil, danger, we defy;
 And, with an aim voluptuous, rush on death.
 Thus universal her despotic power.

And as her empire wide, her praise is just.
 Patron of pleasure! deater on delight!
 Fann thy rival; pleasure I profess;
 Pleasure the purpose of my gloomy song.
 Pleasure is nought but virtue's gayer name;
 I wrong her still, I rate her worth too low;
 Virtue the root, and pleasure is the flower;
 An honest Epleurus' foes were fools.

But this sounds harsh, and gives the wise offence;
 If o'erstrain'd wisdom still retains the name.
 How knits austerity her cloudy brow,
 And blames, as bold, and hazardous the praise
 Of pleasure, to mankind, unprais'd, too dear!
 Ye modern Stoics! hear my soft reply;
 Their senses men will trust: we can't impose;
 Or, if we could, is imposition right?
 Own honey sweet; but, owning, add this sting:
 'When mixt with poison, it is deadly too.'
 Truth never was indebted to a lye.
 Is ought but virtue to be prais'd, as good?

Why then is health preferr'd before disease?
What nature loves is good, without our leave.
And where no future drawback cries, 'Beware;
Pleasure, though not from virtue, should prevail.
'Tis balm to life, and gratitude to heav'n;
How could our thanks for bounties unenjoy'd!
The love of pleasure is man's eldest born,
Born in his cradle, living to his tomb;
Wisdom, her younger sister, though more grave
Was meant to minister, and not to mar,
Imperial pleasure, queen of human hearts.

Lorenzo! thou her majesty's renown'd,
Though uncoif'd, counsel, learned in the world!
Who think'st thyself a Murray, with disdain
May'st look on me. Yet, my Demosthenes!
Canst thou plead pleasure's cause as well as I?
Know'st thou her nature, purpose, parentage?
Attend my song, and thou shalt know them all;
And know thyself; and know thyself to be
(Strange truth!) the most abstemious man alive.
Tell not Calista; she will laugh thee dead;
Or send thee to his hermitage with L—
Absurd presumption! thou, who never knew'st
A serious thought! shalt thou dare dream of joy?
No man e'er found a happy life by chance;
Or yawn'd it into being with a wish;
Or, with the frown of growling appetite,
E'er smelt it out, and grubb'd it from the dirt.
An art it is, and must be learnt; and learnt
With unremitting effort, or be lost;

And leaves us perfect blockheads in our bliss.
The clouds may drop down titles, and estates;
Wealth may seek us; but wisdom must be sought;
Sought before all; but (how unlike all else
We seek on earth!) 'tis never sought in vain. [see:

First, pleasure's birth, rise, strength, and grandeur,
Brought forth by wisdom, nurs'd by discipline,
By patience taught, by perseverance crown'd,
She rears her head majestic; round her throne,
Erected in the bosom of the just;
Each virtue, list'd, forms her manly guard.
For what are virtues? (formidable name!)
What, but the fountain, or defence, of joy?
Why, then, commanded? need mankind commands,
At once to merit, and to make, their bliss?—
Great legislator! scarce so great, as kind!
If men are rational, and love delight,
Thy gracious law but flatters human choice;
In the transgression lies the penalty;
And they the most indulge, who most obey.

Of pleasure, next, the final cause explore;
Its mighty purpose, its important end.
Not to turn human brutal, but to build
Divine on human, pleasure came from heav'n.
In aid to reason was the goddess sent;
To call up all its strength by such a charm.
Pleasure, first, succours virtue; in return,
Virtue gives pleasure an eternal reign.
What, but the pleasure of food, friendship, faith,
Supports life nat'ral, civil, and divine?

'Tis from the pleasure of repast, we live;
'Tis from the pleasure of applause, we please;
'Tis from the pleasure of belief, we pray;
(All pray'r would cease, if unbeliev'd the prize :)
It serves ourselves, our species, and our God;
And to serve more, is past the sphere of man.
Glide, then, for ever, pleasure's sacred stream!
Through Eden, as Euphrates ran, it runs,
And fosters ev'ry growth of happy life;
Makes a new Eden where it flows;—but such
As must be lost, Lorenzo! by thy fall.

'What mean I by thy fall?'—Thou'lt shortly see,
While pleasure's nature is at large display'd;
Already sung her origin, and ends.
Those glorious ends, by kind, or by degree,
When pleasure violates, 'tis then a vice,
And vengeance too; it hastens into pain.
From due refreshment, life, health, reason, joy;
From wild excess, pain, grief, distraction, death;
Heav'n's justice this proclaims, and that her love.
What greater evil can I wish my foe,
Than his full draught of pleasure, from a cask
Unbroach'd by just authority, ungaug'd
By temperance; by reason unrefin'd?
A thousand daemons lurk within the lee.
Heav'n, others, and ourselves! uninjur'd these,
Drink deep; the deeper, then, the more divine;
Angels are angels from indulgence there;
'Tis unrepenting pleasure makes a god.

Dost think thyself a god from other joys?

A victim rather! shortly sure to bleed.
The wrong must mourn: can heav'n's appointments fail?
Can man outwit omnipotence? strike out
A self-wrought happiness un-meant by him
Who made us, and the world we would enjoy?
Who forms an instrument, ordains from whence
Its dissonance, or harmony, shall rise.
Heav'n bid the soul this mortal frame inspire;
Bid virtue's ray divine inspire the soul
With unprecious flows of vital joy;
And, without breathing; man as well might hope
For life, as, without piety, for peace.

'Is virtue, then, and piety the same?'—

No; piety is more; 'tis virtue's source;
Mother of ev'ry worth, as that of joy.
Men of the world this doctrine ill digest;
They smile at piety; yet boast aloud
Good-will to men; nor know they strive to part
What nature joins; and thus confute themselves.
With piety begins all good on earth;
'Tis the first-born of rationality.
Conscience, her first law broken, wounded lies;
Enfeebled, lifeless, impotent to good;
A feign'd affection bounds her utmost pow'r.
Some we can't love, but for th' Almighty's sake;
A foe to God was ne'er true friend to man:
Some sinister intent taints all he does;
And, in his kindest actions, he's unkind.

On piety, humanity is built;
And, on humanity, much happiness;

And yet still more on piety itself.
A soul in commerce with her God is heav'n;
Feels not the tumults and the shocks of life;
The whirls of passions, and the strokes of heart.
A Deity believ'd, is joy begun;
A Deity ador'd, is joy advanc'd;
A Deity belov'd, is joy matur'd.
Each branch of piety delight inspires;
Faith builds a bridge from this world to the next,
O'er death's dark gulph, and all its horror hides;
Praise, the sweet exhalation of our joy,
That joy exalts, and makes it sweeter still;
Pray'r ardent opens heav'n, lets down a stream
Of glory on the consecrated hour
Of man, in audience with the Deity.
Who worships the great God, that instant joins
The first in heav'n, and sets his foot on hell.

Lorenzo! when wast thou at church before?
Thou think'st the service long: but is it just?
Tho' just, unwelcome; thou hadst rather tread
Unhallow'd ground; the muse, to win thine ear,
Must take an air less solemn. She complies.
Good conscience! at the sound the world retires;
Verse disaffects it, and Lorenzo smiles;
Yet has she her seraglio full of charms;
And such as age shall heighten, not impair.
Art thou dejected? is thy mind o'ercast?
Amid her fair ones, thou the fairest chuse,
To chase thy gloom.—'Go, fix some weighty truth;
'Chain down some passion; do some gen'rous good;

- ' Teach ignorance to see, or grief to smile ;
- ' Correct thy friend ; befriend thy greatest foe ;
- ' Or with warm heart, and confidence divine,
- ' Spring up, and lay strong hold on him who made
' thee.' —

Thy gloom is scatter'd, sprightly spirits flow ;
Tho' wither'd is thy vine, and harp unstrung.

Dost call the bowl, the viol, and the dance,
Loud mirth, and laughter, wretched comforters !
Physicians ! more than half of thy disease.

Laughter, tho' never censur'd yet as sin,
(Pardon a thought that only seems severe)
Is half-immoral : is it much indulg'd ?

By venting spleen, or dissipating thought,
It shews a scorner, or it makes a fool ;

And sins, as hurting others, or ourselves.

'Tis pride, or emptiness, applies the straw,
That tickles little minds to mirth effuse ;

Of grief approaching, the portentous sign !
The house of laughter makes a house of woe.

A man triumphant is a monstrous sight ;

A man dejected is a sight as mean.

What cause for triumph, where such ills abound !

What for dejection, where presides a power,

Who call'd us into being to be blest ?

So grieve, as conscious, grief may rise to joy ;

So joy, as conscious, joy to grief may fall.

Most true, a wise man never will be sad ;

But neither will sonorous, bubbling mirth,

A shallow stream of happiness betray :

Too happy to be sportive, he's serene.

Yet wouldst thou laugh (but at thy own expence,)

This counsel strange should I presume to give—

'Retire, and read thy Bible, to be gay.'

There truths abound of sov'reign aid to peace;

Ah! do not prize them less, because inspir'd,

As thou, and thine, are apt and proud to do.

If not inspir'd, that pregnant page had stood,

Time's treasure! and the wonder of the wise!

Thou think'st, perhaps, thy soul alone at stake;

Alas! should men mistake thee for a fool;

What man of taste for genius, wisdom, truth,

Tho' tender of thy fame, could interpose?

Believe me, sense, here, acts a double part,

And the true critic is a Christian too.

But these, thou think'st, are gloomy paths to joy.—

True joy in sunshine ne'er was found at first;

They, first, themselves offend, who greatly please;

And travel only gives us sound repose.

Heav'n sells all pleasure; effort is the price;

The joys of conquest are the joys of man;

And glory the victorious laurel spreads

O'er pleasure's pure, perpetual, placid stream.

There is a time, when toil must be preferr'd,

Or joy, by mis-tim'd fondness, is undone.

A man of pleasure is a man of pains.

Thou wilt not take the trouble to be blest.

False joys, indeed, are born from want of thought;

From thought's full bent, and energy the true;

And that demands a mind in equal poize,

Remote from gloomy grief, and glaring joy.
 Much joy not only speaks small happiness,
 But happiness that shortly must expire.
 Can joy, unbottom'd in reflection, stand?
 And in a tempest, can reflection live?
 Can joy, like thine, secure itself an hour?
 Can joy, like thine, meet accident unshock'd?
 Or ope the door to honest poverty?
 Or talk with threat'ning death, and not turn pale?
 In such a world, and such a nature, these
 Are needful fundamentals of delight:
 These fundamentals give delight indeed;
 Delight, pure, delicate, and durable;
 Delight, unshaken, masculine, divine;
 A constant, and a sound, but serious joy.
 Is joy the daughter of severity?
 It is:—yet far my doctrine from severe.
 'Rejoice for ever:' it becomes a man:
 Exalts, and sets him nearer to the gods.
 'Rejoice for ever,' nature cries, 'Rejoice;
 And drinks to man, in her nectareous cup,
 Mixt up of delicacies for every sense:
 To the great founder of the bounteous feast,
 Drinks glory, gratitude, eternal praise;
 And he that will not pledge her, is a churl.
 Ill firmly to support, good fully taste,
 Is the whole science of felicity:
 Yet sparing pledge: her bowl is not the best
 Mankind can boast.—'A rational repast;
 'Exertion, vigilance, a mind in arms,

' A military discipline of thought,
 ' To foil temptation in the doubtful field ;
 ' And ever-waking ardor for the right.'

'Tis these, first, give, then guard, a chearful heart.
 Nought that is right, think little ; well aware,
 What reason bids, God bids ; by his command
 How aggrandiz'd, the smallest thing we do !
 Thus, nothing is insipid to the wise ;
 To thee, insipid all, but what is mad ;
 Joys season'd high, and tasting strong of guilt.

' Mad ! (thou reply'st, with indignation fir'd)
 ' Of ancient sages proud to tread the steps,
 ' I follow nature.'——Follow nature still,
 But look it be thine own : is conscience, then,
 No part of nature ? is she not supreme ?
 Thou regicide ! O raise her from the dead !
 Then, follow nature ; and resemble God.
 When, spite of conscience, pleasure is pursu'd,
 Man's nature is unnaturally pleas'd :
 And what's unnatural, is painful too
 At intervals, and must disgust ev'n thee !
 The fact thou know'st ; but not, perhaps, the cause.
 Virtue's foundations with the worlds were laid ;
 Heav'n mixt her with our make, and twisted close
 Her sacred int'rests with the strings of life.
 Who breaks her awful mandate, shocks himself,
 His better self : and is it greater pain,
 Our soul should murmur, or our dust repine ?
 And one, in their eternal war, must bleed.

If one must suffer, which should least be spar'd ?

The pains of mind surpass the pains of sense:
Ask, then, the gout, what torment is in guilt,
The joys of sense to mental joys are mean:
Sense on the present only feeds; the soul
On past, and future, forages for joy.
'Tis hers, by retrospect, thro' time to range;
And forward time's great sequel to survey.
Could human courts take vengeance on the mind,
Axes might rust, and racks, and gibbets, fall:
Guard, then, thy mind, and leave the rest to fate.

Lorenzo! wilt thou never be a man?
The man is dead, who for the body lives,
Lur'd, by the beating of his pulse, to list
With ev'ry lust, that wars against his peace;
And sets him quite at variance with himself.
Thyself, first, know; then love: a self there is.
Of virtue fond; that kindles at her charms.
A self there is, as fond of ev'ry vice,
While ev'ry virtue wounds it to heart;
Humility degrades it, justice robs,
Blest bounty beggars it, fair truth betrays,
And godlike magnanimity destroys.
This self, when rival to the former, scorn;
When not in competition, kindly treat,
Defend it, feed it:—but when virtue bids,
Toss it, or to the fowls, or to the flames.
And why? 'tis love of pleasure bids thee bleed;
Comply, or own self-love extinct, or blind.

For what is vice? self-love in a mistake:
A poor blind merchant buying joys too dear.

And virtue, what ? 'tis self love in her wits,
Quite skilful in the market of delight.
Self-love's good sense is love of that dread power,
From whom herself, and all she can enjoy.
Other self-love is but disguis'd self-hate ;
More mortal than the malice of our foes ;
A self-hate, now, scarce felt ; then felt full-fore,
When being, curst ; extinction, loud-implor'd ;
And ev'ry thing prefer'd to what we are.

Yet this self-love Lorenzo makes his choice ;
And, in this choice triumphant, boasts of joy,
How is his want of happiness betray'd,
By disaffection to the present hour !
Imagination wanders far a-field ;
The future pleases : why ? the present pains—
' But that's a secret, '—Yes, which all man know ;
And know from thee, discover'd unawares,
Thy ceaseless agitation, restless roll
From cheat to cheat, impatient of a pause ;
What is it ?—'Tis the cradle of the soul,
From instinct sent, to rock her in disease,
Which her physician, reason, will not cure.
A poor expedient ! yet thy best ; and while
It mitigates thy pain, it owns it too.

Such are Lorenzo's wretched remedies !
The weak have remedies, the wise have joys.
Superior wisdom is superior bliss.
And what sure mark distinguishes the wise ?
Consistent wisdom ever wills the same ;
Thy sickle wish is ever on the wing.

Sick of herself, is folly's character ;
As wisdom's is, a modest self-applause.
A change of evils is thy good supreme ;
Nor, but in motion, canst thou find thy rest.
Man's greatest strength is shewn in standing still.
The first sure symptom of a mind in health,
Is rest of heart, and pleasure felt at home.
False pleasure from abroad her joys imports ;
Rich from within, and self-sustain'd the true,
The true is fixt, and solid as a rock ;
Slipp'ry the false, and tossing, as the wave.
This, a wild wanderer on earth, like Cain ;
That, like the fabled, self-enamour'd boy,
Home-contemplation her supreme delight ;
She dreads an interruption from without ;
Smit with her own condition ; and the more
Intense she gazes, still it charms the more.

No man is happy, till he thinks on earth
There breathes not a more happy than himself.
Then envy dies, and love o'erflows on all ;
And love o'erflowing makes an angel here,
Such angels-all, intitled to repose
On him who governs fate: tho' tempest frowns,
Tho' nature shakes, how soft to lean on heaven !
To lean on him, on whom archangels lean !
With inward eyes, and silent as the grave,
They stand collecting ev'ry beam of thought,
Till their heart kindles with divine delight ;
For all their thoughts, like angels, seen of old
In Israel's dream, come from, and go to, heaven :

Hence, are they studious of sequestred scenes;
While noise, and dissipation, comfort thee.

Were all men happy, revellings would cease,
That opiate for inquietude within.

Lorenzo! never man was truly blest,
But it compos'd, and gave him such a cast,
As folly might mistake for want of joy.

A cast, unlike the triumph of the proud;
A modest aspect, and a smile at heart.

O for a joy from thy Philander's spring!

A spring perennial, rising in the breast,
And permanent, as pure! no turbid stream

Of rapt'rous exultation, swelling high;
Which, like land-floods, impetuous pour a while,
Then sink at once, and leave us in the mire.

What does the man, who transient joy prefers?

What, but prefer the bubbles to the stream?

Vain are all sudden sallies of delight;
Convulsions of a weak distemper'd joy.

Joy's a fix'd state; a tenure, not a start.

Bliss there is none, but unprecious bliss:

That is the gem: sell all, and purchase that.

Why go a begging to contingencies,

Not gain'd with ease, nor safely lov'd, if gain'd?

As good fortuitous, draw back, and pause;

Suspect it; what thou canst ensure, enjoy;

And nought but what thou giv'st thyself, is sure.

Reason perpetuates joy that reason gives,

And makes it as immortal as herself:

To mortals, nought immortal, but their worth.

Worth, conscious worth! should absolutely reign;
 And other joys ask leave for their approach;
 Nor, unexamined, ever leave obtain.
 Thou art all anarchy; a mob of joys
 Wage war, and perish in intestine broils;
 Not the least promise of internal peace!
 No bosom-comfort! or unborrow'd bliss!
 Thy thoughts are vagabonds: all outward-bound,
 Mid sands, and rocks, and storms, to cruise for pleasure;
 If gain'd, dear bought; and better miss'd than gain'd.
 Much pain must expiate, what much pain procur'd.
 Fancy, and sense, from an infected shore,
 Thy cargo bring; and pestilence the prize.
 Then, such thy thirst (insatiable thirst!
 By fond indulgence but inflam'd the more!
 Fancy still cruises, when poor sense is tir'd.

Imagination is the Eaphian shop,
 Where feeble happiness, like Vulcan, lame,
 Bids foul ideas, in their dark recess,
 And hot as hell (which kindled the black fires,)
 With wanton art, those fatal arrows form,
 Which murder all thy time, health, wealth, and fame.
 Wouldst thou receive them, other thoughts there are,
 On angel-wing, descending from above,
 Which these, with art-divine, would counterwork,
 And form celestial armour for thy peace.

In this is seen imagination's guilt;
 But who can count her follies? she betrays thee,
 To think in grandeur there is something great.
 For works of curious art, and ancient fame,

Thy genius hungers, elegantly pain'd;
 And foreign climes must cater for thy taste.
 Hence, what disaster!—tho' the price was paid,
 That persecuting priest, the Turk of Rome,
 Whose foot (ye gods!) tho' cloven, must be kiss'd,
 Detain'd thy dinner on the Latian shore;
 (Such is the fate of honest Protestants!)
 And poor magnificence is starv'd to death.
 Hence just resentment, indignation, ire!—
 Be pacify'd; if outward things are great,
 'Tis magnanimity great things to scorn;
 Pompous expences and parades angust,
 And courts; that insalubrious soil to peace.
 True happiness ne'er enter'd at an eye;
 True happiness resides in things unseen.
 No smiles of fortune ever blest the bad,
 Nor can her frowns rob innocence of joys;
 That jewel wanting, triple crowns are poor:
 So tell his Holiness, and be reveng'd.

Pleasure, we both agree, is man's chief good;
 Our only contest, what deserves the name
 Give pleasure's name to nought, but what has pass'd
 Th' authentic seal of reason (which, like Yorke,
 Demurs on what it passes) and defies
 The tooth of time; when past, a pleasure still;
 Dearer on trial, lovelier for its age,
 And doubly to be priz'd, as it promotes
 Our future, while it forms, our present, joy.
 Some joys the future overcast; and some
 Throw all their beams that way, and gild the tomb.

Some joys endear eternity : some give
 Abhorr'd annihilation dreadful charms.
 Are rival joys contending for thy choice ?
 Consult thy whole existence, and be safe ;
 That oracle will put all doubt to flight.
 Short is the lesson, tho' my lecture long,
 Be good—and let heav'n answer for the rest.

Yet, with a sigh o'er all mankind, I grant
 In this our day of proof, our land of hope,
 The good man has his clouds that intervene ;
 Clouds, that obscure his sublunary day,
 But never conquer : ev'n the best must own,
 Patience, and resignation, are the pillars
 Of human peace on earth. The pillars, these :
 But those of Seth not more remote from thee,
 Till this heroic lesson thou hast learnt ;
 To frown at pleasure, and to smile in pain.
 Fir'd at the prospect of unclouded bliss,
 Heav'n in aversion, like the sun, as yet
 Beneath th' horizon, cheers us in this world ;
 It sheds, on souls susceptible of light,
 The glorious dawn of our eternal day.

' This (says Lorenzo) is a fair harangue :
 ' But can harangues blow back strong nature's stream :
 ' Or stem the tide heav'n pushes thro' our veins,
 ' Which sweeps away man's impotent resolves,
 ' And lays his labour level with the world ?'

Themselves men make their comment on mankind ;
 And think nought is, but what they find at home :
 Thus, weakness to chimæra turns the truth.

Nothing romantic has the muse prescrib'd.

• Above, Lorenzo saw the man of earth,
The mortal man; and wretched was the sight.
To balance that, to comfort, and exalt,
Now see the man immortal: him, I mean,
Who lives as such: whose heart, full bent on heav'n,
Leans all that way, his bias to the stars.
The world's dark shades, in contrast set, shall raise
His lustre more; tho' bright, without a foil:
Observe his awful portrait, and admire;
Nor stop at wonder; imitate, and live.

Some angel guide my pencil, while I draw,
What nothing less than angel can exceed,
A man on earth devoted to the skies;
Like ships in seas, while in, above the world:

With aspect mild, and elevated eye,
Behold him seated on a mount serene,
Above the fogs of sense, and passion's storm;
All the black cares, and tumults, of this life,
Like harmless thunders, breaking at his feet,
Excite his pity, not impair his peace.
Earth's genuine sons, the sceptred, and the slave,
A mingled mob! a wand'ring herd! he sees,
Bewilder'd in the vale; in all unlike!
His full reverse in all! what higher praise?
What stronger demonstration of the right?

The present all their care; the future, his.
When public welfare calls, or private want,

• In a former night.

They give to fame: his bounty he conceals.
Their virtues varnish nature: his exalt.
Mankind's esteem they court: and he, his own.
Their; the wild chase of false felicities:
His, the compos'd possession of the true.
Alike throughout is his consistent peace,
All of one colour, and an even thread:
While party-colour'd shreds of happiness,
With hideous gaps between, patch up for them
A madman's robe: each puff of fortune blows
The tatters by, and shews their nakedness.

He sees with other eyes than theirs: where they
Behold a sun, he spies a Deity:
What makes them only smile, makes him adore.
Where they see mountains, he but atoms sees:
An empire, in his balance, weighs a grain.
They things terrestrial worship, as divine:
His hopes immortal blow them by, as dust,
That dims his sight, and shortens his survey,
Which longs, in infinite, to lose all bound.
Titles and honours (if they prove his fate)
He lays aside to find his dignity:
No dignity they find in aught besides.
They triumph in externals (which conceal
Man's real glory) proud of an eclipse.
Himself too much he prizes to be proud,
And nothing thinks so great in man, as man.
Too dear he holds his interest, to neglect
Another's welfare, or his right invade:
Their int'rest, like a lion, lives on prey.

They kindle at the shadow of a wrong ;
Wrong he sustains with temper, looks on heav'n,
Nor stoops to think his injurer his foe ;
Nought, but what wounds his virtue, wounds his peace.
A cover'd heart their character defends :
A cover'd heart denies him half his praise.
With nakedness his innocence agrees ;
While their broad foliage testifies their fall.
Their no-joys end, where his full feast begins ;
His joys create, theirs murder, future bliss.
To triumph in existence, his alone ;
And his alone, triumphantly to think.
His true existence is not yet begun.

His glorious course was, yesterday, complete ;
Death, then, was welcome ; yet life still is sweet.

But nothing charms Lorenzo like the firm,
Undaunted breast—And whose is that high praise ?
They yield to pleasure, tho' they danger brave,
And shew no fortitude but in the field :
If there they shew it, 'tis for glory shewn :
Nor will that cordial always man their hearts.
A cordial his sustains, that cannot fail :
By pleasure unsubstu'd, unbroke by pain,
He shares in that omnipotence he trusts.
All bearing, all attempting till he falls :
And when he falls, writes *VICI* on his shield.
From magnanimity, all fear above :
From nobler recompence above applause :
Which owes to man's short out-look all its charms.

Backward to credit what he never felt,

Lorenzo cries,—‘ Where shines this miracle ?
 ‘ From what root rises this immortal man ?’
 A root that grows not in Lorenzo’s ground ;
 The root distinct, nor wonder at the flower.

He follows nature (not like * thee :) and shews us
 An uninverted system of a man.

His appetite wears reason’s golden chain,
 And finds, in due restraint, its luxury.
 His passion, like an eagle well reclaim’d,
 Is taught to fly at nought, but infinite.
 Patient his hope, un-anxious is his care,
 His caution fearless, and his grief, (if grief
 The gods ordain) a stranger to despair.
 And why?—because affection, more than meet,
 His wisdom leaves not disengag’d from heaven.
 Those secondary goods that smile on earth,
 He, loving in proportion, loves in peace.
 They most the world enjoy, who least admire.
 His understanding scapes the common cloud
 Of fumes, arising from a boiling breast.
 His head is clear, because his heart is cool,
 By worldly competitions uninflam’d.
 The mod’rate movements of his soul admit
 Distinct ideas, and matur’d debate,
 An eye impartial, and an even scale ;
 Whence judgment sound, and unrepenting choice.
 Thus, in a double sense, the good are wise ;
 On its own dunghill, wiser than the world.

* See page 239, line 13.

What, then, the world? it must be doubly weak;
Strange truth! as soon would they believe their creed.

Yet thus it is; nor otherwise can be;
So far from aught romantic, what I sing.
Bliss has no being, virtue has no strength,
But from the prospect of immortal life.
Who thinks earth all, or (what weighs just the same)
Who care no farther, must prize what it yields;
Fond of its fancies; proud of its parades.
Who thinks earth nothing, can't its charms admire;
He can't a foe, tho' most malignant, hate,
Because that hate would prove his greater foe.
'Tis hard for them (yet who so loudly boast
Good-will to men?) to love their dearest friend;
For may not he invade their good supreme,
Where the least jealousy turns love to gall?
All shines to them, that for a season shines.
Each act, each thought, he questions, 'What its weight,
' Its colour what, a thousand ages hence?'—
And what it then appears, he deems it now.
Hence, pure are the recesses of his soul.
The god-like man has nothing to conceal.
His virtue, constitutionally deep,
Has habit's firmness, and affection's flame;
Angels, ally'd, descend to feed the fire;
And death, which others slay, makes him a god.

And now, Lorenzo! bigot of this world!
Wont to disdain poor bigots caught by heaven!
Stand by thy scorn, and be reduc'd to nought:
For what art thou?—Thou boaster! while thy glare,

Thy gaudy grandeur, and mere worldly worth,
Like a broad mist, at distance, strikes us most;
And, like a mist, is nothing when at hand;
His merit, like a mountain, on approach,
Swells more, and rises nearer to the skies,
By promise, now, and, by possession, soon,
(Too-soon, too much, it cannot be) his own.

From this thy just annihilation rise,
Lorenzo! rise to something, by reply.
The world, thy client, listens, and expects;
And longs to crown thee with immortal praise.
Canst thou be silent? no; for wit is thine;
And wit talks most, when least she has to say,
And reason interrupts not her career.
She'll say — That mists above the mountains rise;
And, with a thousand pleasantries, amuse;
She'll sparkle, puzzle, flutter, raise a dust,
And fly conviction, in the dust she rais'd.

Wit, how delicious to man's dainty taste!
'Tis precious, as the vehicle of sense;
But, as its substitute, a dire disease.
Pernicious talent! flatter'd by the world,
By the blind world, which thinks the talent rare,
Wisdom is rare, Lorenzo! wit abounds;
Passion can't give it; sometimes wine inspires
The lucky flash; and madness rarely fails.
Whatever cause the spirit strongly stirs,
Confers the bays, and rivals thy renown.
For thy renown, 'twere well, was this the worst;
Chance often hits it; and to pique thee more,

See dullness, blund'ring on vivacities,
Shakes her sage head at the calamity,
Which has expos'd, and let her down to thee.
But wisdom, awful wisdom ! which inspects,
Discerns, compares, weighs, separates, infers,
Seizes the right, and holds it to the last ;
How rare ! in senates, synods, fought in vain ;
Or if there found, 'tis sacred to the few ;
While a lewd prostitute to multitudes,
Frequent, as fatal, wit : in civil life,
Wit makes an enterpriser ; sense, a man.
Wit hates authority ; commotion loves,
And thinks herself the lightning of the storm.
In states, 'tis dangerous ; in religion, death :
Shall wit turn Christian, when the dull believe ?
Sense is our helmet, wit is but the plume ;
The plume exposes, 'tis our helmet saves.
Sense is the di'mond, weighty, solid, sound ;
When cut by wit, it casts a brighter beam ;
Yet, wit apart, it is a di'mond still.
Wit, widow'd of good sense, is worse than nought ;
It hoists more sail to run against a rock.
Thus, a half-Chesterfield is quite a fool ;
Whom dull fools scorn, and bless their want of wit.
How ruinous the rock ! I warn thee shun,
Where Sirens sit, to sing thee to thy fate !
A joy, in which our reason bears no part,
Is but a sorrow tickling, ere it stings.
Let not the cooings of the world allure thee ;
Which of her lovers ever found her true ?

Happy! of this bad world who little know!—
 And yet, we much must know her, to be safe
 To know the world, not love her, is thy point;
 She gives but little, nor that little, long.
 There is, I grant, a triumph of the pulse;
 A dance of spirits, a mere froth of joy,
 Our thoughtless agitation's idle child,
 That mantles high, that sparkles, and expires,
 Leaving the soul more rapid than before.
 An animal ovation! such as holds
 No commerce with our reason, but subsists
 On juices, thro' the well-ton'd tubes, well-strain'd;
 A nice machine! scarce ever run'd aright:
 And when it jars—thy Sirens-sing no more;
 Thy dance is done; the demi-god is thrown
 (Short apotheosis!) beneath the man,
 In coward gloom immers'd, or fell despair.

Art thou yet dull enough despair to dread,
 And startle at destruction? if thou art,
 Accept a buckler, take it to the field;
 (A field of battle is this mortal life!)
 When danger threatens, lay it on thy heart;
 A single sentence proof against the world.
 'Soul, body, fortune! ev'ry good pertains
 'To one of these; but prize not all alike;
 'The goods of fortune to thy body's health,
 'Body to soul, and soul submit to God.'
 Wouldst thou build lasting happiness? do this;
 Th' inverted pyramid can never stand.

Is this truth doubtful? it outshines the sun;

Nay, the sun shines not but to shew us this,
 The single lesson of mankind on earth
 And yet—yet what? no news! mankind is mad;
 Such mighty numbers list against the right,
 (And what can t numbers, when bewitch'd, atchieve!)
 They talk themselves to something like belief,
 That all earth's joys are theirs: as Athens' fool
 Grinn'd from the port on ev'ry sail his own

They grin; but wherefore? and how long the laugh?
 Half ignorance, their mirth; and half, a lye;
 To cheat the world, and cheat themselves, they smile.
 Hard either task! the most abandon'd own,
 That others, if abandon'd, are undone:
 Then, for themselves, the moment reason wakes,
 (And Providence denies it long repose)
 O how laborious is their gaiety!
 They scarce can swallow their ebullient spleen,
 Scarce muster patience to support the farce,
 And pump sad laughter, till the curtain falls.
 Scarce, did I say? some cannot sit it out;
 Oft their own daring hands the curtain draw,
 And shew us what their joy, by their despair.

The clotted hair! gor'd breast! blaspheming eye!
 Its impious fury still alive in death! ——
 Shut, shut the shocking scene.—But heav'n denies
 A cover to such guilt; and so should man.
 Look round, Lorenzo! see the reeking blade,
 Th' invenom'd phial, and the fatal ball;
 The strangling cord, and suffocating stream:
 The loathsome rottenness, and foul decays

From raging riot (flower suicides!)
And pride in these, more execrable still!—
How horrid all to thought!—but horrors, these,
That vouch the truth; and aid my feeble song.

From vice, sense, fancy, no man can be blest:
Bliss is too great, to lodge within an hour:
When an immortal being aims at bliss,
Duration is essential to the name.
O for a joy from reason! joy from that,
Which makes man-man; and, exercis'd aright,
Will make him more: a bounteous joy! that gives,
And promises; that weaves, with art divine,
The richest prospect into present peace:
A joy ambitious! joy in common held
With thrones ethereal, and their greater far:
A joy high privileg'd from chance, time, death!
A joy, which death shall double! judgment crown!
Crown'd higher, and still higher, at each stage,
Thro' blest eternity's long day: yet still,
Not more remote from sorrow, than from him,
Whose lavish hand, whose love stupendous, pours
So much of deity on guilty dust.
There, O my Lucia! may I meet thee there,
Where not thy presence can improve my bliss!

Affects not this the sages of the world?
Can nought affect them, but what fools them too?
Eternity, depending on an hour,
Make serious thought man's wisdom, joy, and praise.
Nor need you blush (though sometimes your designs
May shun the light) at your designs on heaven:

Sole point! where over bashful is your blame.
 Are you not wise?—You know you are: yet hear
 One truth, amid your num'rous schemes, mislaid,
 Or overlook'd, or thrown aside, if seen;
 ' Our schemes to plan by this world, or the next,
 ' Is the sole difference between wise, and fool.'
 All worthy men will weigh you in this scale;
 What wonder, then, if they pronounce you light?
 Is their esteem alohe not worth your care?
 Accept my simple scheme of common sense:
 Thus, save your fame. and make two worlds your own.

The world replies not:—but the world persists;
 And puts the cause off to the longest day,
 Planning evasions for the day of doom.
 So far, at that re-hearing from redress,
 They then turn witnesses against themselves.
 Hear that, Lorenzo! nor be wise to-morrow.
 Haste, haste! a man, by nature, is in haste;
 For who shall answer for another hour?
 'Tis highly prudent, to make one sure friend;
 And that thou can'st not do, this side the skies.

Ye sons of earth! (nor willing to be more!)
 Since verse you think from priestcraft somewhat free,
 Thus in an age so gay, the muse plain truths
 (Truths, which, at church you might have had in
 prose)

Has ventur'd into light; well pleas'd the verse
 Should be forgot, if you the truths retain;
 And crown her with your welfare, not your praise.
 But praise she need not fear. I see my fate;

And head-long leap, like Curtius, down the gulph.
Since many an ample volume, mighty tome,
Must die; and die unwept; O thou minute,
Devoted page! go forth among thy foes;
Go, nobly proud of martyrdom for truth,
And die a double death: mankind incens'd,
Denies thee long to live: nor shalt thou rest,
When thou art dead; in Stygian shades arraign'd
By Lucifer, as traitor to his throne;
And bold blasphemer of his friend,—the world;
The world whose legions cost him slender pay,
And volunteers, around his banner swarm;
Prudent, as Prussia, in her zeal for Gaul.

‘Are all, then, fools?’ Lorenzo cries.—Yes, all,
But such as hold this doctrine (new to thee;
‘The mother of true wisdom is the will;)
The noblest intellect, a fool without it.
World-wisdom much has done, and more may do,
In arts and sciences, in wars, and peace;
But art and science, like thy wealth, will leave thee,
And make thee twice a beggar at thy death.
This is the most indulgence can afford;—
‘Thy wisdom all can do, but—make thee wise,’
Nor think this censure is severe on thee;
Satan, thy master, I dare call a dunce.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

h.

n.

ce,